

可愛い女の子に
攻略されるのは
好きですか？

Do you like
to be captured
by a cute girl?

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5



GA文庫

可愛い女の子に
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好きですか?

Do you like
to be captured
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5







「……好き」

引き返せない時間の溝を
埋めるかのように、
二人の唇が吸い寄せられる。
半開きになった姫沙の唇から、
甘い吐息が漏れていた。

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Prologue

—When did he fall in love with her?

It might have been after they first met. Together with them growing up, these feelings started to grow as well.

Three years ago, when Mikado and Kisa were second-years in middle school. Mikado had been taken to a high-society party by the head of the Kitamikado Family, snuck out, and walked around the storage of the same hotel in boredom. However, unlike when he was younger, he was alone now.

Mikado waited a bit, until the door to the storage opened. Entering inside was Kisa, wearing a glamorous dress. She had her beautiful hair bound together, wearing high-heels. With her breath slightly out of rhythm, she closed the door behind her.

“Calling me out here...You know what would happen if someone saw us together. We’re not kids anymore.” Kisa puffed out her lips.

Just as she said, now that they had started to take responsibility as the successors of the two families, them meeting like this would create chaos in their respective followership. That’s why Mikado arranged a secret meeting here.

“You don’t like this?”

“I’m saying that this is troublesome.”

“Tell me honestly if you hate it or not. If it’s a bother, I’ll stop calling you.”

“.....”

With Mikado asking, Kisa bit her lip. She grabbed the hem of her dress, clearly embarrassed.

“I-I don’t...”

“I wanted to meet you.”

Back in his second year of middle school, Mikado had been much more honest. Rather, he was allowed to say such things, so he did without hesitation. Hearing this, Kisa lowered her head even more.

“As if...I would hate this. You are the only one who allows me to be simply Kisa, not the successor of the Empress of Darkness.”

“...Thanks.”

“...Yeah.”

They took an awkward distance from each other, leaning against the wall with their backs. Mikado sighed.

“Recently, the pressure has gotten worse. On TV, only the news has been shown the past few weeks...”

“Does your family live in prison?”

“We’re a normal family. Just, the bookstore I would always visit to read manga closed down a while ago...Apparently he was arrested because he missed a traffic light, but it has to be my family’s doing.”

“Is their plan to raise a sheltered prince with no brain?” Kisa asked, doubting her ears.

“I doubt that’s it, but...”

“I’m sorry, let me correct myself. Are all parents of the Kitamikado Family people with no brain?”

“I really doubt that’s it!”

Kisa was probably the only person who could take such a rude stance towards Mikado. But, this missing restraint was exactly what made Mikado feel most comfortable.

“Should I help the store owner break out of jail? Though some innocent people might die in the process, there’s no problem, right?”

“There’s so many I lost count...”

“Then, I could hack the TV channel to show some manga images. That way you can read manga again, right?”

“No need to go that far. I’m not willing to risk my life for some manga.”

He just read them as a break between school and lessons at home. If he bought them to take them home, they were confiscated right away.

“I see...”

Seeing Kisa slightly dejected, Mikado found himself smiling.

“But, I’m happy for the sympathy. That really helps.”

“I-I’m not...I was just worried that your head might get worse, which would leave us unable to hold a proper conversation.”

“That is some awful worry!”

“You know, if things continued, you might just go eat furniture. What happens if you bite on some electrical cord?”

“What kind of animal am I to you?!”

Mikado knew very well that she was just hiding her bashfulness through this. Kisa had always been bad at openly conveying her feelings. Maybe because the world she was raised in would not allow her to show any weakness.

“That reminds me, I heard there was some organization that smuggled drugs from overseas, which just got annihilated. They had hints on them, but they suddenly vanished...was that the Nanjou Family’s doing?”

“These kids were getting on their high horse, so we took care of them.”

“...So you killed them.”

“My, we would never.” Kisa put her hands together with a kind smile. “You know that a person’s life is worth more than 30 million yen? It would be a waste to turn them into burned trash. Since they were all jankies, their organs didn’t have much worth, but they’ll be working at a black company for the rest of their lives.”

“That’s way too black! Just finish them off clean then!”

“I could never do something cruel as that.”

“I feel like both ways here are plenty cruel...”

“In order to have them feel the joy of working to their hardest, we gave them a salary raise. If they continue to work for ten years, their annual income goes up by 5000 yen!”

“That doesn’t sound very effective to me.”

“But, it can’t be helped. They were working on their own, away from the Nanjou Family. We have them show what happens if they work against us, right?”

“.....”

Unlike the innocent her in the past, she was now slowly being colored in the Nanjou Family’s way of life. She was slowly changing. Yet, Mikado’s feelings for her wouldn’t change.

“W-What? Did I say something weird?” Kisa grew flustered as Mikado went silent.

“...No, you’re not wrong.”

This is just the result of the Nanjou Family’s teachings. He had to change the people in charge, and have her soul cleansed. Suddenly, someone opened the door of the storage.

“Someone came!”

“Over here.”

Mikado pulled Kisa deeper inside. They crouched down to sneak

around, but Kisa lost her balance. Mikado stopped her with an embrace. Having grown severely, Kisa's body felt soft, and unbelievably white. A sweet scent came from her, and her dress together, as her earlobes were painted in a faint red.

"M-Mika..."

"...Quiet."

Mikado pressed the palm of his hand on Kisa's lips. At the same time as he felt his heartbeat accelerate, he wished for her to feel the same.

The door closed, and the sound of footsteps grew distant. The two were alone again.

"If only we hadn't been enemies..."

"W-What do you mean by that?"

Without responding, Mikado separated his body from Kisa. Her beet red face made his chest hurt. He couldn't directly look at her face. After all, their families wouldn't allow them. Kisa's existence would drift further and further away from him. The pain of not being able to be together weighted down on his heart.

"Maybe we shouldn't be meeting anymore."

"Eh....." Kisa's shoulders shook.

Let's give up. About trying to walk next to Kisa, who would control the darkness, as Mikado, who would control the light. That's what he thought.

But, in the fall of his first year in high school. She appeared inside the classroom of Sousei Academy.

"I've transferred today. My name is Nanjou Kisa. Please treat me well, my future slaves. And, Kitamikado-san...your normal daily life will come to an end today, okay?"

She gave an awful first impression, as she stood next to the teacher's pult. Yet, her beauty didn't change the past three years. Rather, it

only went up. Mikado had no idea why she had appeared out of the blue, nor what she was about to do back then.

It was around half a year until the start of the love game.

Chapter 1: Evidence

“Mikado...do you...like me?”

From Kisa’s beautiful lips, a soft voice leaked. Her cheeks were as red as a cherry, with her eyes, radiating like gemstones, reflecting Mikado himself.

“No...that’s...” Mikado was panicking.

Shown on their phones was evidence that they both had positive affection for each other. Who would? For what reason? How even? Full of mysteries, Mikado was at a loss on what to do. The first one to move was Kisa. She pressed a button on her phone, and put the phone to her ear, speaking quickly.

“Sigma! Jam the entire town!”

「Huh? Why that, so suddenly?」

“Do it right now! If not, I’ll have you killed!”

「! Roger!」

Being able to faintly hear their conversation, Mikado immediately guessed Kisa’s intent. She would seal off the chances of proof leaking outside, steal Mikado’s phone, and win the love game with the overwhelming proof she acquired. Mikado quickly tried to save the own proof he received—the scenery of Mizuki teasing Kisa about her love for Mikado—on his drive, but he didn’t make it in time. His connection was cut, not even allowing him to send an email.

“Fufu...fufufufufu...”

Hearing a laugh filled with confidence and enjoyment, Mikado lifted his head. The wavering and bashful expression of the maiden in front of him had vanished. A dark aura, befitting Kisa, who crowned herself as the successor of the Empress of Darkness, started emitting from her back, as passion resided in her eyes. From her lips, a

questionable and enticing breath leaked.

“Now...Mikado...? Could you hand me that smartphone...?”

“...You think I would just give it to you?”

“I don’t...But, let me be honest with you. This once, I will not hold back to get your everything...because now, it will end for good!” Kisa kicked her feet off the ground, leaping at Mikado.

Her speed, her eyes, they resembled a beast, more than a young girl. Like a beast clad in darkness, she was intent to fully gulp up Mikado right here. In her hand, she had a knife, radiating in the sunlight. The blade of the knife barely missed Mikado’s cheek, as a strand of hair fluttered through the air.

“You’re planning on killing me?!”

“I won’t! If I do, we won’t be able to stay together! That’s why, give up and become my slave before I have to kill you!”

“Ridiculous?!” Mikado screamed, as he ran away from behind the gym hall.

Though forcing Kisa down wouldn’t be impossible, with her holding clear killing intent like that, he might hurt her since he couldn’t hold back either. That was not an option for Mikado. If it came to raw physical ability, Mikado would not lose against her. Hence, he dashed into the school building, running up the stairs. He was aiming for the computer room. There, he should still have an internet connection, allowing him to take a back-up of the proof he had obtained. She shouldn’t have had the time to cut off the communication line just yet. In the worst case, he would have to use his private network to analyze the data with the terminal inside the room.

Before the homeroom in the morning, the hallway was filled with students arriving at school. Between those who exchanged short greetings, Mikado mentally prepared himself to die at any moment, as he passed through them. Running in the hallway was an action not befitting of a Kitamikado Family member, but this time it couldn’t be helped. Arriving at the computer room, he frantically opened the

door, jumping inside.

“Mikado-kun?! What happened?!”

Inside, Kokage was currently working at one terminal. She had a cable connecting the PC and camera, checking pictures.

“Sorry! Let me borrow that PC!”

“Eh? There’s countless others though...”

“I don’t have the time to boot one up!”

“Hya?!”

Mikado stood between the PC and the chair Kokage was sitting on, moving the mouse himself. His elbow hit Kokage’s chest, his hand laying on hers, but he didn’t have time to get flustered about that.

Mikado swiftly opened the browser, moving to the back-up site he used.

“Huh? A ball?”

Together with Kokage’s confused voice, Mikado heard something fall to the ground. Looking over the source, the item having dropped to the floor wasn’t a ball or anything—it was pitch black, with the form of a pineapple.

“A hand grenade!”

Mikado embraced Kokage, carrying her outside the room. Following that, the gust of the explosion hit his back. The windows were burst open, the fragments flying everywhere. With a fire breaking out, the school alarm rang out.

“Eh...Huh? The classroom exploded...? Terrorism...?” Kokage sat on the floor, flabbergasted.

“Are you hurt?!”

“N-No, I’m fine...But, what just happened...?”

“I don’t have the time to explain! For now, the school has turned into a battlefield! If possible, you should go home right away! At the very least, ride somewhere safe!”

“A battlefield?! What is going on?!”

Mikado didn’t have the time to answer, as he ran down the hallway, away from the computer room. The alarm stopped immediately after. Kisa most likely cracked the security system to not alarm anybody, especially the police, as things would grow complicated if they were to get involved. There were other computers around, like the staff’s office, but they were laptops. They were most likely suffering from the jamming.

If possible, Mikado would have loved to call his family to order a car home. The closest landline phone was located at the office on the first floor. Arriving at that conclusion, Mikado ran down the stairs again, jumping inside the room. The inside was wrapped in silence, showing that nobody was currently using the phone. Right after picking up the phone he heard the sound he wanted to hear, meaning they didn’t cut the telephone line.

The problem being, since he had always used the shortcut in his phone to call his driver, he didn’t remember the number. In a rush, Mikado took out his smartphone, searching through his address book to find the number. But then, he felt something odd at his back. Though they were weak, he heard definite footsteps, approaching him.

“Haa...Hehe...” A voice with burning passion tickled Mikado’s neck.

Following that, a sweet, oh so sweet scent of deadly poison.

“Found youuu...”

A young girl’s body clung to Mikado’s back. Her soft skin was slightly oiled with sweat, clinging to Mikado’s own. Her slender fingers ran down his chest, reaching out for the smartphone in his hand.

“Did you reallyyyy think...you could run away from me...?”

Her eyes, filled with ecstasy, were gazing right into Mikado’s. Her

limbs were glued to his body, her lips about to touch his cheek, as she whispered sweet temptations into his ear.

“Hey...Mikado...give me this, okay...? I really...really want this...”

She was asking Mikado to hand over the smartphone in a cutesy way, which led him to feel a shiver go down his spine.

“...You seem to be mistaken about something. There is no data on this phone. I hid the memory card at a safe location.” Mikado returned a calm voice, as if he was scolding Kisa’s prank.

“That’s a lie. You trust in your strength more than anything else. With the risk of it being found by somebody else, you would decide that protecting it yourself was much more safe.”

“I am the type of man who would take risks for his goal.”

“No, you wouldn’t take any risks. You would always go for the safest way to win. I know how you like to fight after all. How many times do you think we have played chess together?”

“...!” Mikado grit his teeth.

The time he treasured so much back then, which he passed with Kisa in a secluded room during the parties, now came back to haunt him. Just as she said, Mikado was the type to remove any sort of danger, rather than be adventurous. At the same time, Kisa was the exact opposite, very skilled at taking risks with high reward.

“Come on...isn’t it fine? You want to become free, right...? If I can have the data, I’ll kiss you wherever you want me to...”

“Wherever...I want you to...?”

“Yes, wherever...And not just that...I will do whatever you want me to...That is...my...” Kisa clung to Mikado.

Which was the source of the heat Mikado felt? His body? Kisa’s body? Or was it both? Mikado was trying his hardest not to get swallowed up by her heat and passion.

“There’s...something hard hitting me, though?”

With the experience Mikado had gathered, he immediately understood that this hard thing was the muzzle of a gun.

“I can’t help it, okay? It’s the candy and whip principle. This once, I really cannot let you get away.”

“What a coincidence, I really can’t lose against you this once.”

Mikado fell forwards, whilst grabbing Kisa’s arm the same moment, throwing her on the ground. Because he didn’t want her to get hurt in any way, he had to do it softly, which is why Kisa could still fire the gun. Twisting his body, he evaded the bullet, dashing out of the office. He jumped into a nearby empty classroom, clinging to the wall to prepare for Kisa’s next attack. Right away, a canister that looked like a spray can flew inside.

—A flashbang!

At the same time as the foreign object exploded, Mikado covered his eyes, though avoiding the flash, he was still left blind for a few seconds. Right after, a small body bumped into Mikado’s body with great momentum. From the scent and sensation, as well as the breath leaking from the body—No, more than anything, Mikado’s instincts screamed that he had Kisa in his arms.

The two were battling with strength, trying to push the other down. The sound of sparks ran out—most likely from a stun gun—arriving at his ears, forcing Mikado to react quickly and avert the attack with the back of his hand. Riding on top of him now, Kisa was about to bring down a knife, which Mikado barely managed to avoid.

The knife stabbed the ground. Mikado used this as a chance to grab Kisa’s arms, pushing her down onto the floor. Without restraint, he went to restrain her hands on the ground. Once he opened his eyes again, Kisa’s rather enticing figure was right beneath him.

“Haa...huff...”

Her face was burning in a strong red, her well-endowed chest going up and down as she breathed heavily. Her uniform had been moved

here and there, the buttons opened to reveal more and more of her skin. Her thighs were pressed against Mikado's waist, shaking softly. Glaring up at Mikado with tears in her eyes, Kisa triggered Mikado's instinct to win over her everything.

"A-Are you going to ravish me...?"

"As if I would!"

"Why?! I'm cute, right?! Aren't you getting excited at this sight?! You got a great meal in front of you!"

"Sadly, there's poison inside though!"

"There isn't...I'm very sweet...delicious...and you won't be able to stop eating once you started...?"

"You'll die if I did that!"

Truth be told, she was charming enough Mikado was getting close to losing himself, but by the time he would give in to his instincts, it would be his loss in the love game. That was probably the reason she acted so provocative now. Going this far to win, Mikado felt like praising her, but he couldn't fall for her tricks.

"I'll be taking your smartphone now. Where is it?"

"I shot it up into outer orbit."

"I doubt you had the time to prepare a rocket like that. Where is it?"

"I cut open your belly, and hid it inside."

"Scary! What is this, The Wolf and the Seven Young Goats?"

Thinking about it, just cutting open the belly of the wolf was enough of a cruel deed, and yet the goats even put stones inside. That's reaching atrocious levels.

Since questioning Kisa bore no fruit, Mikado went to look for the smartphone himself. He tried touching the fabric above her skirt's pockets. All he could feel was the soft sensation of her thighs, nothing

else.

“...Mm...”

Just to make sure, Mikado carefully put his fingers inside the pockets as well, to what Kisa's body twisted in agony. Her long eyelashes were shaking in bashfulness. Unable to bear Mikado's fingers touching her skin, she closed her eyes.

Even though he wasn't doing anything lecherous, the girl's reactions made it feel as if he was ravishing her, as an odd sense of immorality assaulted him. Having finished checking both pockets fully, even turning them inside out, he couldn't find the smartphone.

Remembering that she had the tendency of hiding things in her hair, such as back then when they worked as library committee members, he put his fingers inside of her beautiful hair. Though he was a bit dubious if she could really hide something like a smartphone in there.

“Ouch! Don't be so rampant!”

His fingers got caught in a bundle of hair, to what Kisa hissed at him.

“S-Sorry.”

Following that, he moved his fingers through her hair more calmly, almost as if he was patting her on thead.

“Mm...don't be so kind now...”

“Which is it?!”

Mikado didn't know how to deal with the sudden change of attitude in Kisa. At the same time, he couldn't find the smartphone anywhere. Yet, something was off. Kisa should be holding onto the smartphone at any costs. Holding such valuable proof, she wouldn't dare to put it away at a location far away from her. With confidence of her level, she must have believed that she could win over Mikado, and steal his smartphone instead.

“Don't tell me...”

Mikado put his fingers into Kisa's mouth. A warm, wet sensation assaulted his fingers, as Kisa's eyes opened wide in shock.

"No...M-Mihaho...ho..."

"If you don't want me to, then give me your smartphone."

"Nya...hide my hoh...shah..."

Mikado put his finger into every little opening her mouth provided. Her white throat started to shake, as sweet moans escaped from her wide open mouth. She didn't even try to bite Mikado's finger, just trying to endure this situation. Her small tongue chased after Mikado's fingers, clinging to it, granting even greater stimulus. At the very end, she started caressing Mikado's finger with her lips all together.



“H-Hey...”

“Mmm...Ahh...Mmm...”

The hot and wet skin of her tongue wrapped around his finger, pulling it deeper inside. Even though she had looked terrified only a few moments prior, now her face is distorted by pleasure and desire. Her eyes were not only desiring Mikado’s fingers alone, but his entire

body. Feeling a sudden sensation of immorality and fear, Mikado pulled his finger out of her mouth. Following that, Kisa licked her red lips.

“Mikado, you really are a pervert beyond help. Pushing down a girl in an empty classroom, embarrassing her like this.”

“Whose fault do you think this is...”

“How was the inside of my mouth? If you were to surrender yourself to me, I would let you taste my tongue directly. You want to kiss me...don’t you?”

“That’s...” Mikado audibly gulped in the face of this provocation.

He happened to envision it, the scene of their two tongues intertwining, loving each other.

“Since you’re such a lecher, I’ll tell you. My smartphone is actually hidden right between my breasts.”

“Wha?!”

“What now? You can’t put your hands in between there, right? You don’t have the guts for that.”

Mikado narrowed his eyes at the ridicule coming from Kisa, but he had no hesitation right now. Rather, he might have not had any strength to reason left inside of him. Hence, he pushed down Kisa with one hand still, the other one he carefully moved into the chest of her uniform.

“H-Hold on, you’re serious?!”

Kisa panicked, having not expected this turn of events apparently. Her calm attitude of a Queen had vanished elsewhere, as Mikado felt the desire to make her panic even more. Mikado’s fingers reached deep inside the valley of her chest.

“Mmm...?!” Kisa’s shoulders jolted up.

Mikado reached deeper in search of the smartphone, as his fingers

were wrapped in a soft sensation. More smooth than cream, her skin clung right to his fingers. At the place he could feel the girl's heartbeat the closest, his fingers were running rampant.

“Mmm...No...Mikado...It's still too...early...Ah...”

Kisa's knees were shaking, clinging to Mikado as she writhed in agony. The soft voice reaching up to Mikado's eardrums were fully melting the part of Mikado's brain that still worked. His name called out by the girl he loved in such erotic manner, Mikado felt the deepest parts of his body burn up. The two big bulges surrounding his hand were changing form the more he moved.

Suddenly, the chime for homeroom rang. Reflexively, Mikado separated himself from Kisa. Their shoulders were going up and down as they tried to get their breathing under control, showing no signs of continuing their attacks any further. Kisa was the first to react, as she stood up on wobbly knees, pressing her hands on her chest, leaving the empty classroom. Finally, with a face as if she couldn't handle the embarrassment, she turned around to glare at Mikado.

“.....Pervert.”

Mikado was left behind with these words he couldn't deny.

On the way to his own classroom, Mikado gazed out the windows on the side of the hallway he traversed. With his face forward, he had his eyes cast to the side.

—I thought so.

Just as expected, he spotted several of Kisa's subordinates around the area of the school gate. They looked like normal salarymen on the outside, but the second they were standing around in front of a school gate as they were, they didn't look normal anymore. No doubt, they were there to seal off Mikado's possible escape. Kisa's phone probably didn't suffer from the on-going jamming. At the same time, she must have saved the proof of Mikado's affection for her as a back-up somewhere. Meaning, if Mikado's evidence of Kisa's affection for him were to be stolen, it would be his defeat. Arriving at that

conclusion, he had to somehow lessen the current danger by any means.

—There's snipers around...And so many.

Here and there, inside and on top of the buildings surrounding the one he was in, he could see the lights of the muzzles and scopes flash up. If Mikado were to try and escape to an isolated building, he would be shot at without doubt.

—Guess I can only wait for more people to arrive.

In other words, once classes ended for the day. He had to hide the sight of his in the mass of students. That would be the safest method of escaping. Mikado entered the classroom, and immediately went to check out Kisa's status.

“Uuu...”

The damage she had received before apparently hadn't vanished yet, as Kisa had her head buried in her arms, letting out moans of despair. Though she had buttoned up her shirt, her clothes as a whole were still in disarray. Kokage walked over to her, asking in a worried tone.

“What happened? Are you not feeling well?”

Kisa muttered, her face still not visible.

“My breasts were groped...”

“Ehhhhhhh?! W-Who did it?!”

“Sex offender...”

“A sex offender?! There's one at this school?! I have to hurry and get evidence—!”

—You're not going to report it first?!

However, Kokage already dashed out of the room, not being able to Mikado's retort. But, as the homeroom teacher just arrived at the classroom, she was grabbed by the neck, and forcefully sat down on

her seat again. Wonderful display of responsibility on their end.

Kisa on the other hand still lingered on her seat, not moving an inch. From the looks of it, she wouldn't be able to muster up any attack in the next few hours. Mikado saw this, and put his smartphone deep inside his pocket. Now all he had to do was wait for classes to end.

...However. Right as the second period arrived, with Mikado copying notes into his notebook, a white hand appeared from beneath the desk.

—A ghost?!

Mikado thought for a second, but after taking a closer look, it was a living human being; Kisa. She had snuck up to him, eventually getting between his knees, currently in the middle of reaching for his pocket. For some reason, she was even breathing roughly, almost as if she was excited by something.

“What are you doing?!” Mikado asked in a quiet voice.

Kisa just glared up at him.

“What are **you** doing?! You should be studying right now! Properly focus on classes, okay?!”

“There's many things I want to say right now...But, let me just go with this...You're not one to talk!”

Kisa nodded along for some reason.

“That's right. It's not like I don't understand what you are thinking. Having a beauty like me right next to you, you wouldn't be able to focus on classes, right! An expected reaction from a boy like you!”

“You didn't have to be a beauty for me to react like that!”

“That's...so even a middle-aged man with pure good-will would have you react like that?”

“What kind of example is that! Also, I doubt a middle-aged man would act like this out of good-will!”

“Don’t you know the saying ‘Study hard while you are young?’”

“What are we talking about?!” Mikado was at a loss.

The situation was plenty confusing already, and now Kisa was bringing some random idiom into the game.

“It’s fine, don’t mind me. This will be over really soon...”

“Don’t use classes to ram some syringe into your classmate’s thighs!”

Mikado stole the syringe out of Kisa’s hands. Though he had no way of knowing what was inside, it couldn’t have been anything good. And if possible, he would have liked to avoid suffering from a coma as the high school student that he was. As Mikado grabbed both her arms to restrain her, the girl fought back with all her might. The other students were focussing on class, not realizing that a silent war was going on.

“It seems like you don’t understand your current position...If I scream here, everybody will think that you’re forcing a female classmate to do perverted stuff in class...and they’ll all be judging you.”

“It’s the opposite...If I scream here, they’ll think that you’re some pervert who tries to pull down a male classmate’s pants, judging **you!**”

“I don’t mind at all!”

“Mind it a bit, okay?!”

Kisa snickered.

“All other humans besides Mikado are less than trash, so why would I care what some trash thinks about me...”

“I see, your self-conceit is reaching new heights, huh!” Mikado was fed-up with the situation, but at the same time felt happy that he was a special existence to her.

Because of this, the strength in his arms relaxed, allowing Kisa to aim at his pocket. Though he managed to catch her hand right, her long

nails were already inside.

“Keep calm already...this will be over soon...I won’t do anything bad...”

“That’s the exact phrase someone with bad intentions would say!”

“It’ll feel good really soon...”

“How would I feel good about having my smartphone stolen?!”

This awkward battle continued for another 30 minutes, until Kisa’s endurance reached its limit. The sight of Kisa returning to her seat in a detached manner was surreal, but Mikado arrived at a terrifying conclusion. Kisa would attack all the time...even if it was during class. On top of that, after the explosion in the computer room, no ambulance was called, the students weren’t sent home either, still attending classes as before. That in itself was an irregularity. Though this probably wasn’t a similar school like Kisa had used before, it was very likely that a part of the teachers had been bribed (or threatened). Mikado couldn’t relax.

Lunch break. Even during the time Mikado was buying lunch at the cafeteria, he never once let go of his smartphone. At a table a bit further away, Kisa was eating pancakes gracefully...or so it might look, but in reality, she was watching Mikado. After carrying a piece of pancake to her mouth with fork and knife, she gazed at Mikado.

Next it’s your turn~

Without letting out a voice, her lips conveyed the words instead. This was pure horror. Mikado could bear it as the successor of the Kitamikado Family, a normal boy would have probably run to the nurse’s office in tears and fear.

“Mikado-sama, is something wrong? You have been holding your smartphone the entire day...”

Rinka called out to Mikado, sitting next to him.

“Don’t mind it. I just think of my phone as another part of my body.”

“Another part of your body?! Did you become a hybrid?!”

“Most likely.”

“But when did that...” Rinka started tearing up. “I might be able to get a doctor from overseas to surgically remove the smartphone...”

“You don’t have to go that far!”

“It’s fine! It’s a doctor I trust! With his information – consent being on-point, he will make sure to tell you ‘You might die from this operation...are you sure about this? Are you really sure about it?’ before it!”

“Isn’t he thinking about the patient a bit too much?!”

Rather than being kind-hearted, it sounded like he was a sadist more than anything. Mizuki started laughing at that, after she took a bite of her bread.

“Rinka-chan, you worry too much~ Mikado-kun is just phone addicted, that’s all~”

“Phone addicted...?” Rinka tilted her head in confusion.

“Yup. If he doesn’t have his phone close to him, he can’t calm down. I’ve been like that before as well. Just by seeing that my battery was getting low, I was having trouble breathing! Like this! Haa...Huff...” Mizuki started shaking with her smartphone in hand.

“I feel like it hasn’t gotten much better?!”

“It’s fine, I just tend to cough up blood whenever I can’t participate in a limited-time event! This is much better than me rolling the gacha in my sleep!”

“I feel like you’ve gotten much worse?!”

This was on a level where she might be better off getting professional help. Then again, once Mikado would win over Kisa to the Kitamikado Family, and Mizuki succeeding the Nanjou Family, she would probably create places to charge your phone everywhere in

today's Japan.

"Also, Mikado-kun! Isn't it hard to eat while holding your phone? Why not put it down on the table?"

Mikado had his phone in one hand, switching between knife and fork in his other, trying his hardest to cut the steak. He regretted not picking an easier dish, but because of the continuous battle with Kisa, he needed some more calories.

"I can't put it on the table under any circumstances."

"Why?"

"...Can't tell you."

Mizuki and Rinka both were participants in the love game, so he couldn't give them any more information than necessary. As of right now, Mikado still didn't know who even sent this video, nor what kind of aim they had with this.

"Then, how about I feed you mouth to mouth!"

Mizuki put a great amount of pasta in her mouth.

"This isn't the type of food you could do that with!"

"Eh? Would you have preferred soup then?"

"That would make it even more difficult!"

"You really are selfish, Mikado-kun! Then, here!"

"Mguh?!"

Mizuki stabbed the tomato added to the pasta—an entire tomato—and pushed it right into Mikado's mouth.

"Ah, that's not fair, Mizuki-san! I also want to feed Mikado-sama!"

"Mughguh?"

Rinka followed suit, picking up some jelly from her plate, equally

stuffing it right into Mikado's mouth.

"Eh? What, you want to eat some more, Mikado-kun?! You're just like a baby~! Here, eat some more!"

"Ahh...Haaa...My everything is entering Mikado-sama's mouth... wonderful...More...eat more, Mikado-sama..."

Mizuki was getting on a high horse, whereas Rinka was more and more excited. They were stuffing more and more into Mikado's mouth, relentlessly, as he himself found trouble breathing.

The final chime of the day rang, as the students started to leave onto the hallway. Giving it a quick glance outside the window, Mikado couldn't find his ride waiting at the entrance. If he had to guess, it was probably forced into a traffic jam on the way. Either way, his one chance of escaping had been cut off.

Mikado made his way down the first floor, and headed not the frontal entrance, but the back entrance. He hid in the shadow of the school building's wall, checking how things were looking. Snipers and overseers were watching the students leaving the front gate, giving Mikado a small hope that they might be busy, but there were a few stationed at the back gate as well.

Two men wearing work clothes, doing some cleaning duties. Their gazes were awfully sharp, their bodies well-built looking like they had metal bars hidden inside their clothes. They clearly didn't belong here. They must be hiding their guns in these clothes.

If it was just the two, Mikado shouldn't have any trouble overwhelming them, but in the off-chance that they managed to alarm their allies, even Mikado would have trouble. Today, he had to be especially careful, or the school could turn into a sea of flames. It happened right as Mikado was wondering what he should do.

Someone jumped at his back. Reflexively, Mikado grabbed the attackers arm, throwing them over his shoulder.

"Kya?! Mikado-kun?!"

Understanding that it was Mizuki he was dealing with, Mikado

stopped his movement, just carrying her in his arms.

“...Sorry, I thought you were an enemy.”

“Enemy?! What are you fighting, Mikado-kun?!”

“This world’s unfairness.”

“Cool! I wanna join!”

“Once you grow up, you can.” Mikado put his hand on her head, spitting phrases straight out of some shounen manga.

He clearly didn’t have the time for this. He didn’t exactly hate playing along with Kisa’s little sister’s jokes, but right now, he had to find a way to escape first and foremost.

“You’re running away from Onee-chan, right?”

“How did you know?”

“I can tell as much~ There’s so many guards around our school. I don’t know why, but you’re playing a game of hide and seek with Onee-chan, aren’t you?”

“A game of hide and seek...Well, not too far off.”

A game of hide and seek with the life on the line. Where the seeker didn’t hesitate to blow up an entire room.

“Then, then, I’ll play with you as well! I wanna have fun with Mikado-kun and Onee-chan!”

“We’re not playing here. This is a serious battle...” Mikado tried explaining, but Mizuki cut between.

“Since they’re watching both the front and back gate, you want to run away from some other place, right? I know another escape route!”

“Really?!”

“Yup! If you let me join, I’ll tell you!”

“Can’t help it. Please do.”

“Yay!” Mizuki clung to Mikado’s arm, jumping up in joy.

In every situation, she was always going at her own pace.

“And, where is that secret path?”

“Over here!”

Mizuki grabbed Mikado’s hand, pulling him down the hallway. Her walking around the high school division was a daily occurrence, so the students weren’t even surprised anymore at seeing her middle school division uniform. Arriving at the hallway that crossed the courtyard, Mizuki approached the back of the nearest office. On the way stood a light business purpose minivan, with a middle-aged woman carrying boxes from the office. Mizuki called out to her, waving.

“Hiroko-chan! How are you doing~?”

“I’m doing just fine. Seems like you’re brimming with energy as always.” The woman called Hiroko smiled broadly.

“Yup! I’m feeling great!”

“Who is this person...? A subordinate of the Nanjou Family?” Mikado asked Mizuki.

“No~! Hiroko-chan is my friend! She often brings equipment to the school, so we started to talk a bit.”

“Right~!”

The 14-year old girl, and the woman in her forties were lining up shoulders like they had been sisters from birth.

“You sure are amazing, Mizuki...”

“Eh? Mikado-kun just praised me? He just praised me! He said I was the cutest girl in the entire world, and that he wanted to get married!”

“I didn’t say that much!” Mikado retorted with all his might.

“Who’s this handsome guy? Your boyfriend?”

“Yup!”

“Don’t lie as naturally as you breathe!”

“It’s not a lie~ You like my Onee-chan, and eventually, I’ll NTR you from Onee-chan~”

“I see.” Hiroko nodded along.

“Don’t reveal everything like that...” Mikado felt a cold sweat run down his cheek.

At this rate, Hiroko might be locked up by the Nanjou Family because she knows too much about this whole thing going on, even though she’s a pure victim.

“We’re being chased by the great demon lord right now~ Could you maybe let us hide in your car? Just outside the school is fine!”

“The demon lord, huh. Alright, hop on.”

“Thanks~!” Mizuki jumped into the trunk of the car.

Making space for herself as she squashed several other objects in the process, yet Hiroko wasn’t bothered by that in the slightest. Although Mikado was used to Mizuki getting along with everyone, this was crossing the level of just friends, as they set foot into the level of family.

“Sorry, I’ll take you up on that.”

Mikado bowed slightly to Hiroko, and sat down next to Mizuki.

“Sorry that it’s so narrow in here, Mikado-kun!”

“Don’t you apologize! This isn’t even your car!”

“You can sit on my lap if you feel like it~?”

“I feel like I’d squash you beneath me!”

“Would you love me even if I turned into minced meat?”

“I don’t have much confidence in that, sorry.”

Mikado had no taste for necrophilia inside of him. Hiroko sat on the driver’s seat, giving a thumbs up to the two behind her.

“You are as close as actual siblings~ It’s going to shake a lot, so put on your seat belt, okay?”

“Seat belt...? Where...?” Mikado looked around, unable to find it.

“Okaaay~” Mizuki clung to Mikado’s arm.

“Ahh, I’m the seat belt!”

With a sound resembling an explosion the car started moving. Naturally, the sound didn’t originate from the speed, but rather because the engine clearly wasn’t that healthy anymore.

As a result of that, the drive was as bumpy and shaky as it could have been. Yet, it cut between the walking students, not using the brakes in the slightest. Afraid that Mizuki’s slender body could end up thrown around inside the car, Mikado took the role of the seat belt, embracing her in his arms.

“Mikado-kun is attacking me!”

“I’m not!”

“He just sexually assaulted me!”

“That’s even worse!”

“It’s fine, Mikado-kun. Sexually harass me and assault me even more! You can even take off my panties if you feel like it!”

“Why are you begging me now?!”

With Mizuki clinging to Mikado even more, Hiroko’s car drove out of the back entrance. In order to not get any attention from the guards

positioned there, Mikado pushed Mizuki onto the floor. Luckily, the windows of the car were small, and high up, guarding any view from them.

Separating from Sousei Academy, Mikado checked his surroundings, as he slowly lifted his body.

“Thanks. It seems like we made it out safely. You can just let us out somewhere around here.”

“Are you sure? I can drive you the rest of the way.” Hiroko asked via the front mirror.

“Then, the amusement park! I wanna go to an amusement park with Mikado-kun!”

“You better learn to hold back a bit!”

“There’s no need for that~ The people in this world are all kind to me, so I can just live as selfish as I want!”

“You’ll regret keeping this kind of philosophy once you grow up!”

Then again, Mikado felt that she might just do that. Even he found himself forgiving Mizuki for a lot. But, before he could say anything else, a jet-black wagon lined up next to the car Mikado was on. Judging from the type of car, it should have passed them a long time ago, but for some reason, it kept up perfectly. Thus, Mikado felt like something was off. The smoked glasses slowly rolled down, as something blinked.

“This bad! Get down!”

“Eh, what what?!”

Mikado covered Mizuki’s head as they threw themselves on the ground, Hiroko hiding her head beneath the steering wheel. A few seconds later, a barrage of bullets riddled the windows of the car with bumps. To that, Hiroko clicked her tongue.

“To think they’d be shooting us. I’m glad I made the windows bullet-proof!”

“Is this person really just a normal citizen?!”

“Yeah she is! After divorcing her hold gambling addiction husband, she went on to marry a shut-in, and is now working as an on office worker to repay the debts left behind by her previous husband! In other words, she’s just a normal 45-year old woman (and mother of two)!”

“I didn’t need that much information!”

Mikado felt like crying now that he heard her backstory. At the same time, his resolve to improve Japan especially for people like her was strengthened yet again.

“We’re flying off! Roll up like an armadillo back there!” The mother of two yelled courageously.

With insanely fast movement, barely visible to the naked eye, she turned the steering wheel, landing a crazy turn as the tires were screaming in agony. The trunk in the back was wrapped up in a tornado of items flowing around Mikado and Mizuki. With swift gear-changing, the car blasted off. The black car followed suit. From the window, they kept on the barrage of bullets, not even caring that this was in the middle of the town.

“Kyaa~ A car chase~!” Mizuki clung to Mikado, clearly enjoying the situation.

The glasses in the back were pierced by bullets, hitting the cardboard boxes. Steam and stimulating scent were leaking out, to which Mikado quickly covered both his and Mizuki’s mouth. But, Mizuki just started leaking his fingers.

“Mikado-kun’s hand is delish!”

“Stop licking! Also, what is this scent?!”

Hiroko ran her fingers through her aging hair.

“A product I was supposed to deliver to a customer! The street price is ten million...Ahh, whatever! Surviving this comes first! I’ll be using the nitro!”

“...Nitro?!”

Mikado showed surprise, but Hiroko didn't bother that, just pressing the red button next to the steering wheel. Right after, together with a heavy impact, the car went blasting off. Deep red flames came out from the back of the car, showing insane acceleration. Met with the heightened G, Mizuki's body was pressed against Mikado's.

“Hahaha! I'm using nitro whenever I tend to get late for a delivery!”

“Don't use nitro...in public traffic...”

Mikado was completely lost about the existence of Hiroko.

The car took a sudden turn, driving into a back alley, pushing the trash bags and yankees to the side. How many people had she run over until now? Mikado was too scared to ask. Together with Hiroko's mood improving as she drove, the chaos ensued further, as she herself changed gears. Her eyes were lit up like she had come home to her children greeting her.

Around the time the black car was nowhere in sight anymore, their own car came to a halt. Beneath an overhead of the national highway, their surroundings were dimly-lit, with no other people around. Together with empty ground, filled with gravel, they were surrounded by a rusty fence, only a pitiful amount of weed growing. There was a single man-hole on the road's surface. Mikado and Mizuki both stepped off the trunk, as Hiroko left the lid of the man-hole with what looked like a crowbar.

“This man-hole is connected to a sewer. Since they marked my car already, it'd be better if you went the rest of the way by foot.”

“Are you some yakuza?”

“I'm working at a perfectly normal occupation. Anyway, I have to get back to my job or the president will cut off my finger! See you later! Good luck!”

Afraid of her boss' sanctions, the 45-year old woman went to drive away with her car. Mizuki watched this with two hands on her waist.

“So that’s one of those famous black companies! I won’t forgive them for harassing Hiroko-chan! Next time I get the chance, I’ll throw some durian and surströmming into their company!”

“Better not, Hiroko will die as well.”

Not to mention that the company she’s working at clearly isn’t normal.

Mikado and Mizuki entered the man-hole, climbing down the ladder. The ladder being eaten up by rust, just putting your hand onto it had you hurt badly. At the same time, the fear of falling down at any possible moment didn’t help either. In case an event like this occurred, Mikado went ahead, allowing him to catch Mizuki, who now spoke up above him.

“You’ll be able to see my panties, so don’t look up, okay?”

“Yeah.”

“I’m wearing the same pair as Onee-chan today, but don’t look up, okay?”

“Why do you know what kind of underwear your older sister is wearing...?”

“My hands slipped off, so don’t look up, okay?”

“Wha?! What are you doing?!” Mikado lifted up his head in panic.

What greeted him was the sight of Mizuki holding up her skirt with one hand, openly flashing her panties. With the other hand, she properly held onto the ladder, sticking out her tongue in a teasing manner. Even in the darkness they were in, Mikado could clearly see her white thighs. Her slender legs were radiating with charm, as a sweet scent drifted down to Mikado. Her small behind still had a comfortable volume to it, just a small piece of thin fabric covering her most important body part. Naturally, talking about the design, there is only one that could leave Mikado in such disarray—The omnipotent girly striped panties.

“Ah, Mikado-kun saw! He saw my panties~” Mizuki giggled in joy.

“I was shown more than anything!”

“I didn’t tell you to look, though~ I kept telling you not to, but you still did!”

“You...”

“Oh? Are you angry now, Mikado-kun? Are you going to punish me? That makes sense~ Nobody is here after all, so no matter what perverted things you do to me, nobody is going to help me! So punish me lots!”

“Don’t make a ruckus on the ladder!”

Mizuki wildly gestured with one hand, leaving Mikado with a hold sweat. Mikado would be able to make it unscathed out of this, but the same couldn’t be said for Mizuki if she fell down here. Maybe she just didn’t possess this emotion called fear after all. Or maybe that had gotten numb after living together with that trigger-finger of an older sister. After they made it to the ground safely, Mikado made a mental note to never ever take Mizuki down this place again.

Their surroundings were unexpectedly open, offering paths on both sides of the water flow to walk on. The wall of bricks most likely acted to solidify the concrete street above them, but it clearly didn’t look too healthy anymore. The deeper end of the sewer was wrapped in pitch-black darkness, requiring the flashlight of the smartphone to show their path.

“Ohh, so this is the Sanzu River¹! It’s my first time coming here!”

“That’s a sign of bad luck, so how about we stop?”

“I came here a few times in my dreams, you know! Like back when I was buried under concrete!”

“This is getting really depressing, so how about we stop?!”

“If you’re worried, then just make me your pet and take me with you!” Mizuki grabbed Mikado’s hand, splashing up water with the sole of her foot.

It's like a father and daughter, walking along a street after it had rained. Even though she had tried to seduce Mikado a few seconds prior, Mizuki was now smiling innocently, feeling Mikado a bit relaxed. Having suffered from consecutive attacks ever since this morning, busy evading open fire just a few minutes before, he could finally take a breather in this situation. Or so he thought, but then it happened.

Hearing a distant rumbling, Mikado went back to his wary mode. Mizuki also stopped her feet, looking up at Mikado in confusion.

“What’s wrong? Need to pee?”

“It’s water...”

“Yup, pee is basically water! I know that!”

“That’s not it?!”

“Eh, am I wrong?! Then what exactly is pee?!”

“Stop constantly repeating the word pee already! This is the sound of a flood incoming! Water is being drained!”

Right as Mikado finished his words, a great amount of water came gushing towards them. Yet, Mizuki raised her hands in excitement.

“Wooaaah! So Hiroko-chan actually took us to an amusement park! Look at that slashing water!”

“This isn’t some attraction! We have to run!” Mikado grabbed Mizuki to carry her under his arm.

“It’s fine~ If it’s Mikado-kun, you can even win against a flood! Punch, Mikado-kun, punch!”

“As if a man’s fist could win against mother nature!”

“Tch tch tch, you really don’t get it. This isn’t mother nature here~ This tidal wave has been created artificially by human hand~”

“Keep quiet or you’ll bite your tongue!”

“Kyaa~ Mikado-kun slapped me on the butt! So violent~”

In reality, Mikado had only given her a slight bump on the head to make her shut up, but Mizuki naturally wouldn't play along. Rather, she was getting even more excited. She'd probably watch the world end in a fire with a big grin on her face. That being said, Mikado couldn't quite do so, so he ran away from the incoming wave with all his might. That being said, even someone trained like Mikado couldn't win against this disaster approaching him, as the distance between them shrunk more and more.

Seeing the emergency exit in front of his eyes, Mikado mustered the last ounce of his strength. Jumping at the door to frantically open it, he flew inside, quickly closing the door behind him. Though it hit the door as it passed by, a small impact was the only result. That being said, water was slowly entering through the opening between door and floor. Seeing that they were safe, Mikado relaxed his body, letting out a sigh.

His heart was beating frantically. He hadn't been this adrenaline filled ever since his one-on-one battle with a lion in the savannah. At the same time, Mizuki couldn't be more calm, just sighing in satisfaction.

“Haaa, that was fun, Mikado-kun!”

“Glad to hear that...”

“I wonder who created this wave? Maybe Onee-chan?”

“Probably...though I didn't think she would go this far...”

In other words, Kisa must be panicking quite a bit herself. She must want that evidence on Mikado's phone at all costs. For now, Mikado and Mizuki had to sit still, waiting to see if there was another wave incoming. In the midst of their break, Mikado decided to gather some more proof, starting a voice recording app on his phone.

“That reminds me, there's something I wanted to ask, Mizuki.”

“What is it~? The password for my bank account? Since it's you, I'll tell you! 1, 4, 2...”

“Don’t teach me something like that! If you balance runs low, I’ll be the one you’ll doubt first!”

“I won’t do something like that~ Because this is the balance of our married life!”

“I see...Well anyway, is this here real?”

Mikado moved the smartphone over, showing Mizuki the video evidence he had received this morning. Shown on there was still the scenery where Kisa admitted her feelings for Mikado.

“Eh.....” Mizuki saw this, and swallowed her breath.

If she showed a reaction like ‘Who took this?!’ or ‘When was that filmed?!’, that would heighten the credibility of it...but so far, nothing of that sort came.

“And? You should know, right? Did this conversation really happen between you and Kisa? Is this video real?”

“Um...Well...Ahaha...what should I do about this...” Mizuki showed an awkward laugh.

Rarely enough, she seemed awfully serious, instead of her usual airheaded attitude.

“What would you do...if this was real?”

“I’d use it to checkmate Kisa.”

“...Right. That’s why you’re fighting in the first place...” Mizuki cast her face downward. Her slender shoulders looked even smaller than before.

Standing up, Mizuki sat down again, this time between Mikado’s legs. With eyes resembling Kisa’s, she looked up at him.

“If you listen to my request, I’ll tell you.”

“What is it?”

Mizuki ran her slender index finger along her lips.

“Kiss me.”

“That’s...” Mikado hesitated.

“I know. You want to have your first kiss with Onee-chan. But, I want it as well...No, not just that, I want to have Mikado’s first in everything...That’s why...okay?” Mizuki put her hand on Mikado’s shirt, approaching his face.

She gave off the same scent as her older sister. The palm of her hand was shaking in worry, and anticipation. Her red lips were seeking Mikado’s. No man on earth would have been able to just shake her away. If Mikado didn’t have a person he longed for already, he might have just given in. However—

“Sorry.”

Mikado softly held Mizuki’s head, pressing his lips on her cheek.

“Mm...!”

A soft sensation hit his lips. Mizuki’s body twitched softly, as the hand holding onto Mikado’s shirt gained more strength. Even after Mikado separated his lips from her cheek, the girl showed no signs of moving away from him. She just leaned against him, as a soft voice left her mouth.

“W-Wow...it was just a kiss on the cheek, and it felt this good...What would happen if you kissed me on the mouth...?” Her eyes were looking up at Mikado in lust. “Hey...Mikado-kun...?” She poked at his chest.

Unlike her usual innocent facial expression, she looked like a maiden in love now. Met with this, Mikado had to turn his heart into a demon.

“Not on the mouth.”

“Just touching them a bit is fine...I won’t tell anybody.”

“No.”

“Then, I won’t tell you. Since you didn’t kiss me on the mouth. I’m not that easy of a woman.”

Mizuki puffed out her cheeks. Even sulking Mizuki was cute. In the end, it was Mikado only who had given her this extra service, but he didn’t hate it.

“That was the first time you kissed someone on the cheek, right? You didn’t do that with Onee-chan yet?”

“Y-Yeah...”

“Ehehe, love you, Mikado-kun~”

Mizuki had her cheeks burn in a strong red, as she clung to Mikado.

By the time they made it home, and safe from all the danger going on, the sun had already started to set. Mikado had separated with Mizuki, arriving at the residence, and could finally take a breather. Even Kisa wouldn’t dare to attack the Kitamikado Family’s main residence. Because that would result in an all-out war.

Being attacked by waves in the sewers, a military helicopter chasing them the second they got above ground, Mikado’s clothes had suffered a lot through the day, drenched with sweat and water from the sewers, as well as half of his clothes scorched . As Mikado walked down the hallway, water dripping from him, his butler Nishida had his eyes open.

“Young master, what happened? You look like you went through hell.”

“Well...I was hit by some guerilla rain.”

No way could he explain that Kisa was on a full-blown assault.

“I wonder. I didn’t know that rain nowadays could melt clothes... How scary. Do please take a bath right away, because you will catch a cold otherwise.”

“I’m fine right now.”

Mikado rather preferred to check if the data on his smartphone was still safe, but his butler wouldn’t give in.

“That I cannot ignore. This unworthy me will make sure that even the smallest part of the young master’s body is perfectly clean!”

“I’m really fine, so none of that!”

“We’ll be having red rice today.”

“What is going to happen²?!”

There was nothing scarier than a treacherous friend. Mikado ran away from his butler, escaping to his own room, and locking the door behind him. Adding to that, he put on the various authentication systems, allowing nobody to enter anymore. In this private room, where even his parents weren’t able to enter, Mikado could now finally take a breather.

Mikado took out the smartphone from his pocket, replaying the evidence. The data was perfectly fine, to Mikado’s relief. The day was filled with opportunities for it to break, such as stray bullets, water, or even fire, so he had prepared himself for the worst, but that was unnecessary in the end.

Mikado booted up his PC, transferring the data, saving the data on more than 100 cloud sites, even those outside the country. On top of that, he saved it on several USB sticks and separate disks, locking them away in his room in various locations. His life depended on this data, so he couldn’t treat it lightly. Once he made sure that everything was safe, Mikado moved to the next part of his plan, calling the Metropolitan Police Department.

“...Kitamikado here.”

“Mikado-sama! It has been quite some time! Thank you very much for the party a while ago! What kind of business do you have today?”

The person on the end of the phone sounded like she was currently bowing down as she talked. On a side note, his phone partner was

Superintendent General of the Metropolitan Police, but there was nobody standing higher in Japan than the Kitamikado Family.

“I’d like a video analysis tool.”

“Video analysis...?” The general sounded confused.

“There’s a video I want to analyze, so don’t you have a program that would allow me to do so?”

“We do have that, yes...But, what kind of video are we talking about?”

“Not something you need to concern yourself with. It’s related to a criminal...and we’re talking about nationwide level.” Mikado said with a sharp tone.

He couldn’t exactly tell him that the video contained a sweet confession of Kisa.

“I-I am terribly sorry! Naturally, I will send you the tool right away!”

“Please do. Japan’s future depends on you.”

After Mikado told the general his mail address, it didn’t take more than 10 seconds until he received the download URL for the program. What fearful working speed. Mikado ran the video of Kisa and Mizuki through this program, starting his analysis.

At around the same time, inside the Nanjou Family’s residence. Kisa had readied her high-tech laptop, put down on the bed, as she was analyzing the heart-throbbing confession Mikado’s. The tool for the analysis had been developed by a research office under the wings of the Nanjou Family. For the Nanjou Family, working in fraud and such often, they were always on the newest step with software that could possibly see through their actions.

Though Mikado was desperate to steal this footage at all costs, it made it look like this confession truly happened, but there was no proof as of right now. The entire thing might have just been part of Mikado’s plan.

Sitting on the bed, Kisa watched the analysis happen without breathing, her heart beating hard enough to almost leap out of her chest. And finally, the results were shown on the screen.

Results of the video data analysis:

Image Procession—true

High Frequency Passing Procession—true

Voice Manufacturing Procession—true

Voice Print Comparison—true

Result of the analysis...this footage has not been created artificially.

Kisa collapsed onto the bed. Because of the ongoing tension, her fingers, knees, her entire body was shaking. Her head went blank, only to be filled again with a rush of happiness and bliss.

“Mikado...likes me.”

She told herself with a sweet voice. Her room, which she should have been used to, now looked like a different world, making her want to cry tears of joy. She embraced herself, trying to subdue the desire of meeting Mikado right this instant. This was the first time she felt that she had been born in this world. Knowing that Mikado loved her, she truly didn't care if every other human being on earth despised her. That was probably the reason as well.

“Onee-chan! Let's play!”

Normally, Kisa would always get angry at Mizuki for suddenly entering her room, but now she just looked at the screen in a daze.

“What are you watching?” Mizuki took a peek at the laptop screen.

Shown there was the video where Mikado admitted his love for Kisa.

“Eh...that's...” Mizuki's eyes opened wide.

To that, Kisa let out a muffled laugh.

“Ehehehe...amazing, right...? Mikado...actually likes me...He liked me this entire time...He loves me...I’m happy...So...So happy...” Her voice felt like it was about to melt away.

Her head was turning, her waist getting tingly. Even her cheeks were burning strong.

“Ahh, so you realized.”

“Realized? So you knew, Mizuki?”

“Quite a while ago. Also, it was pretty obvious. Both you and Mikado could only look at each other.” She said with a sigh.

“I see...”

“You’re not angry?”

“Eh? Why would I be angry?”

“I kept quiet even though I knew, right? Because I didn’t want him to get stolen. Wouldn’t you normally threaten to drown me at Tokyo Bay?”

“Well...who cares about that now. Mikado is only looking at me, so it’s fine...” Kisa crossed her hands in front of her chest, sighing in bliss.

Whereas she would be angry, she now acted like a Buddha. As long as she had Mikado, she didn’t need anything else.

“...That’s not fair. If you’re that happy, I can’t cut between you two... Because I also love Onee-chan.” Mizuki muttered, resting her small head in Kisa’s lap.

1 Buddhist equivalent to the River Styx

2 Red rice is being served for special occasions

Chapter 2: Consciousness

Inside the office of the Nanjou Family's head, Sai. Kisa was sitting across her grandmother, who was working just fine with her proud 99 years. That being said, neither the office of her grandmother, nor the woman herself really stayed in Kisa's gaze. After what happened the night prior, she found herself unable to catch a wink of sleep, watching this footage of Mikado's confession, severely lacking sleep. Even now, she was running the footage through her head.

"...Kisa...Kisa...Hey, Kisa!"

"Y-Yes! What is it?!"

Waking up at her grandmother's repeated calls, Kisa's body stiffened up as she responded.

"You were spacing out. That's not like you."

"U-Um...Apologies, I was thinking about something."

"What were you thinking about?"

"Haaa...Happiness..."

Immediately after making it back to reality, Kisa once again was wrapped up in her feeling of bliss. There was even drool dripping down from the corner of her mouth.

"Kisa!!"

"Yes?! What happened?!" Kisa's shoulders jolted up.

Sai sighed. Her index finger on her cheek was tapping in anger.

"Pull yourself together. You're the next head of the Nanjou Family. I have high expectations for you."

"My apologies..." Kisa bowed to Sai.

People who angered sigh had no hope of surviving in this world. Though she held back since Kisa was her precious granddaughter, angering her any further, even Kisa wouldn't know what she would do.

"And? How is the love game progressing? You didn't finish him yet?" Sai raised her eyebrow as she asked, clearly expecting a positive response.

"Not yet...However, I have managed to gather material that will definitely corner Mikado."

"Oh? And what is that?"

"...Please look forward to it."

"Hm. Seems like you're pretty confident."

"Fuhehehe..."

Kisa had tried her hardest to give a serious answer, but it didn't take long before she once again drifted off.

"...This one's done for." Sai shook her head in disbelief.

Mikado was pondering if he should take the day off school.

It was the following day after he managed to get the proof of Kisa's affection for him. He didn't know what kind of face to make once he ran into her. After all, through the analysis of the footage, he found out that Kisa definitely liked him. Possibly, the love game wasn't just a means of defeating the Kitamikado Family, but purely to gain Mikado for the rest of her life. If that was the case, then she was nothing more but a cute maiden in love.

At the same time, Kisa should be aware of Mikado's feelings for her. Knowing her, she already finished validating the footage, arriving at this conclusion. What would happen now, after they both became aware of each other's feelings? Mikado, who didn't feel fear at the sight of a wild bear in the mountains, found himself on unsteady feet on his way to school.

Having arrived at Sousei Academy, Mikado entered the front entrance, and used a different route from usual in order to get to his classroom. He was hoping to not run into Kisa right away first thing in the morning. That being said, the two were that good of a fit, that they were even thinking the same.

“Wha...”

“Ah...”

The two ran into each other at the back of the stairs, staring at each other in disbelief. With no other people around, there was no other place to hide either.

“Mor—”

Mikado tried forcing out an awkward greeting, but Kisa suddenly closed her eyes, screaming.

“You’re wrong! That wasn’t it! That wasn’t it at all!!!”

“What exactly is wrong?!”

“What happened yesterday was just a dream! Right! A dream! Believe me! All things in creation will eventually pass away with time! The four seasons are Japan’s true treasure!”

“What are you talking about?!”

Mikado was left in confusion, as Kisa panicked.

“C-Calling me with ‘You’...like a married couple...”

“Eh...N-No, I didn’t mean it like that...”

“We’re not even married yet! We didn’t have sex yet, nro did we kiss before, so don’t call me with such a familiar name, it’s unfair! You are the greatest coward in the entire world! I’ll kill you!”

“C-Calm down, calm down okay!”

Or so he said, but Mikado found himself unable to calm down, as

they both panicked even further. They couldn't even look each other in the eye.

“S-See you! Don't show your face in front of me for a wh—Ahhh?!”

“...!”

Kisa took a step back in order to run away from Mikado, but lost her footing on the stairs in the process. Her student bag fell out of her hand, as her body staggered. Mikado moved quickly to catch her mid-air, immediately assaulted by her soft sensation, and sweet scent. On top of that, her two well-endowed bulges were pressing right on his chest. On top of that, her face burning bright with embarrassment and love. Having the girl's facial features right in front of him like this, Mikado found his breathing come to a halt. Kisa looked up at him, her eyes melting.

“S-So cool...”

“Cool?!”

Hearing words you would never expect from Kisa, even Mikado grew a bit worried. But, Kisa immediately grasped herself, pushing away Mikado.

“Y-You're wrong! That wasn't...!! I didn't mean to say that! My real feelings just leaked out! Ah, wait, not my real feelings, but just... Ahhh...?!” Kisa hid her face behind her two hands.

She looked close to breaking down fully. Even her beautiful earlobes were burning in a strong red from the bashfulness. Even Mikado was at his limit, just listening to it. The second they met, his heart was about to burst, and now being called ‘Cool’ by the person he loved, he might as well have passed on.

Kisa on her hand understood that she had made a big mistake there, but Mikado wasn't in the condition to focus on the love game.

“U-Um...For now, how about we pick up all your stuff?”

“...!!!” Her face still beet red, Kisa nodded frantically.

She truly was a maiden in love. This was more proof than any evidence could have delivered. Mikado and her both crouched down on the floor, picking up the workbooks and notes that had previously fallen out of Kisa's student bag. Embarrassed to the fullest, Kisa bit her lip. Finally, Mikado wanted to reach out for the pencil case, Kisa did the same.

Their hands overlapped. Mikado felt the softness of her skin, and his heart stabbed by a sharp pain. Kisa's eyes started turning, as she muttered.

"I can't...anymore..."

"Wah, Kisa?! Kisa?! Pull yourself together?!"

Mikado called out to Kisa, who collapsed on the ground.

For the young man of the Kitamikado Family, an educational institution was a holy place. Naturally, not only to gather a certain level of knowledge to allow him in dealing with the political world's problems. By leaving behind grades on the top level of the school, the children of the Kitamikado Family's supporters, or opponents even, will learn that they cannot go against a Kitamikado. If Mikado's grades were in the lower end, nobody would take him seriously as the future guidesman of Japan.

Even if the curriculum felt slow for Mikado, already having achieved a higher level, he should not be spacing out during classes, because there was always something new to learn...However, that just didn't work out right now. All his attention was sucked up by Kisa, in the seat next to him. Naturally, he was always conscious of her, but today it was exceptionally worse.

Kisa on her hand was equally unable to calm down, as she fidgeted with various parts of her body. From time to time, their eyes would meet, to what Kisa quickly averted her gaze again, giving Mikado half of a heart attack. Her dark aura dwelling behind her had vanished always, as she emitted a pink cloud.

Once break time arrived, Kisa immediately stormed out of the classroom. Her eyes giving Mikado a short backwards glance were

burning with passion. Instead of preparing for the next lesson, like he always would, Mikado instead spaced out on his seat.

“Um...Mikado-kun? You’ve been acting weird for a while now, did something happen?” Kokage asked him in a worried tone.

“...Eh? A-Ah...Acting weird? Who is?”

“You are! I just talked about it!”

Mikado answered in a daze.

“I don’t really get it, but he should be fine. He doesn’t seem weird to me at all, so no problems. None at all, indeed.”

“Why are you making it sound like we’re talking about someone else! Something is definitely off with you! You even talk differently from usual?!”

“That is certainly not the case, no.”

“It clearly is! Don’t tell me, Mikado-kun...you were invaded by the Macrophage people?!”

Kokage leaned forward over the desk, pulling on Mikado’s eyelid to get a closer look at his pupil. Even though she did it at such momentum she could have ripped them off, Mikado showed no signs of being bothered in the slightest. He had lost himself in this feeling of bliss, as any stimulus from the outside didn’t bother him.

“If you had been influenced by the Macrophage, then you would have a cross inside your pupils, but you don’t...”

“Yep, you’re right.”

Or so he agreed, but his head was busy projecting the evidence of Kisa’s feelings still.

“If it’s not the Macrophage...then what is this illness...Do you have any idea what might have caused this?”

“Yep, you’re right.”

“That doesn’t count as an answer! Properly talk to me!”

“Yeah.”

“Don’t give me some half-minded response! That sounds like dad when he doesn’t want to mom...Mikado-kun, are you just spacing out?”

“Yeah.”

Mikado was torn between where to hold the marriage. Overseas, or here in Japan? The Caribbean seas didn’t sound too bad either, but London had a nice atmosphere to it. They might just rent the cathedral while they were at it. That being said, enjoying the marriage inside the snowy scenery of Kyoto he couldn’t ignore. Either way, Kisa in a wedding dress would be the highlight of it all, or so Mikado kept thinking.

Kokage saw Mikado like this, and muttered.

“This is a chance...Now that Mikado-kun’s IQ had dropped drastically, I can ask him whatever I want...right?”

“Yep, you’re right.”

“I thought so!” Kokage clapped her hands together.

She gulped in tension, and leaned forward over to Mikado.

“W-Would you maybe go out with me soon?! NASA is going to publish their previously kept secret photographs!”

“Yeah.”

“Really?! Then then, I’d like to take lots of pictures of you as well!”

“Yeah.”

Kokage’s words entered his ears, but they didn’t make it up to the brain. There, Mikado was thinking about the necessity of sealing the wedding pictures with Kisa into a crystal case, preserving them for all eternity.

“Mikado-kun has zero defences today!? T-Then...c-could I possibly... t-take a nude picture of you?!”

“Yeah.”

“To think this day would come...” Blood started running down Kokage’s nose. “Could we arrange it so that we could both do a nude picture together, in each other’s arms—”

“Will you give it a rest already!”

Rinka gave Kokage a clean karate chop on the head. Although she was officially a civilized young lady, she still possessed quite the strength if need be. Receiving this strike, Kokage crouched down with tears in her eyes.

“R-Rinka-chan...What are you doing...Mikado-kun gave his OK, didn’t he...”

“The current Mikado-sama has no full accountability! He clearly is out of his mind right now!”

“That’s why this is a chance! The current Mikado-kun would buy a great amount of land from the planet Centaurus!”

“That’s just fraud, nothing more!” Rinka burned with rage.

“It’s not fraud! An organization exists which gets the permission of the residents to buy land on planet Centaurus!”

“Then this entire organization is a fraud!”

“If you keep talking badly about them, the evil god Blood Boroboro will come curse you!”

“Now it’s a cult as well!”

“You should have Mikado-kun promise lots now that you have the chance! You might even be able to get him to act as a model for a life-sized figurine of him!”

“Eh...” Rinka blinked.

“So, basically...that figurine will be the exact same as Mikado-sama himself...?”

“...Yes.” Kokage nodded.

“So...even his lower half will be fully realistic from his actual state?! EverytimeI go to taste the figurine, it would be like I was tasting the real Mikado-sama?!”

“Y-Yes...” Kokage realized her mistake.

Rinka was losing herself. She jumped at Mikado, taking his with both her hands.

“Mikado-sama! Let us go to a figurine factory right now! I need a figurine of you in my room!!!”

“Yeah.”

Mikado agreed, whilst not listening at all.

Inside the secret room, wrapped in darkness, three shadows wearing hoods. They each carried a burning candle. Through the opening of their hoods, their narrowed eyes shone. Finally, one participant spoke up.

“...We’ve arrived at a grave situation.”

“Yes.”

“A grave situation...”

The other participants nodded along.

“I see...a grave situation...What should we do about this...Ah, hey, hey, is this ‘grave’ in a grave situation the same ‘grave’ as in where you put dead people?”

“It is not!”

“Don’t use words you don’t even understand!”

“It’s fine, once in a while!”

“It certainly isn’t once in a while with you.”

“Also, why are we wearing these clothes! It’s way too hot!”

One of the participants, Mizuki, pulled off the hood, throwing it away. The other two participants, Kokage and Rinka, followed suit, as pearls of sweat ran down their cheeks. Their serious atmosphere from before had vanished, as they started gasping for air.

“Weren’t you the one who said to wear hoods to meet the atmosphere, Mizuki-chan?”

“Really? I don’t remember that at all~ As long as it’s more than five minutes ago, I don’t remember~”

“I advise you to see a doctor with that condition of yours!”

“Doc...tor? What is that?”

“Don’t even forget about that!”

Mizuki was about to take off her uniform while she was at it, only to be stopped by a desperate Rinka. Although it was just the three girls in the room, the chances of a boy entering the room wasn’t zero. Forced to give up on her nude trip, Mizuki cleared her throat.



“Well, something troublesome has happened. Onee-chan and Mikado-kun have finally realized...that they have mutual feelings for each other.”

“Wha?!”

“Is that true?!”

Kokage and Rinka both showed shocked reactions.

“It’s true~ I don’t really know what happened, but they received weird footage of them both accepting they had feelings for the other...Was that you, Kokage-chan?”

“Kawaraya-san?!” Rinka glared at Kokage with eyes that could kill.

“Eek?! I-I didn’t do anything! I tend to take secret videos or pictures, but it wasn’t me!”

“...Then, who would?”

Mizuki shrugged her shoulders.

“It’s not important who did it, but rather what we do now~ Onee-chan and Mikado-kun are too conscious of each other, they’re getting crazy.”

“It’s true that Mikado-sama had been acting weirdly this entire morning...I had assumed he just wasn’t feeling well, but to think something like this happened.” Rinka sighed.

“If Onee-chan and Mikado-kun are left alone right now, who knows how far they would go.”

“H-How far are we talking about?” Kokage swallowed her breath.

“Having sex!”

“That far?!”

“Their mood has gone up after all! Onee-chan has spent the entire night kissing a video of Mikado-kun!”

“E-Even I...I lick a picture of Mikado-sama every night before going to bed! I will not lose when it comes to my feelings for Mikado-sama!” Rinka argued.

She decided that licking was more impactful than kissing.

“I-I also...won’t lose if it comes to the amount of secret pictures I

have of Mikado-kun...just kidding...” Kokage tried to join in, but failed.

Mizuki took out her smartphone, and looked at the screen.

“I talk with Mikado-kun every night on a phone call! A while ago, I even fell asleep during that!”

“That’s not fair, Mizuki-san!” “That’s unfair, Mizuki-chan!”

An overwhelming difference in strength had Rinka and Kokage left in defeat.

“I told Onee-chan I won’t be trying to break between the two, but maybe I should just a bit...No, maybe I should go full throttle~!”

“Naturally! I feel bad for Mikado-sama, but we cannot allow them to end up in mutual love!”

“E-Ehh? What are you going to do...?”

Kokage felt a bit lost, seeing how determined Mizuki and Rinka were.

“I’d say we assassinate Onee-chan!”

“That’s going too far!”

“Really? Then, how about we put a really small bomb into Onee-chan’s lunch...”

“That’s even worse!”

“Ehh? Are there any other methods to assassinate her?”

“Killing in general is a no-go!”

“That’s right, I wouldn’t want Onee-chan to die...not her, at least.”

“Why are you looking at me now?!” Kokage shivered in fear, as she hid her face with the hood.

Rinka narrowed her beautiful eyebrows, giving an idea of her own.

“For starters, I believe it would be best to make sure Mikado-sama and Kisa-san don’t meet and end up alone. That way, we can avoid them going all the way.”

“What will the last person do?” Kokage tilted her head.

“Hmm...What about digging a hole, only to fill it up again?”

“That’s just torture, isn’t it?!”

“It’s not torture~ It’s education for the people locked up on our prison island!”

“So it’s pure torture!”

Even the Kawaraya Family can’t fully grasp the darkness of the Nanjou Family.

“Alright, then let’s decide with rock-paper-scissors! The winner will take care of Mikado-kun, the second place will take care of Onee-chan, and the loser will be the digger to bury themselves!”

“It’s gotten even worse!”

Sparks flew between the girls, as a harsh rock-paper-scissors battle ensued.

Lunch break.

Normally, they would be eating lunch together as a group, consisting of Mikado himself, Kisa, Mizuki, and Rinka. However, with what happened today, Mikado was slightly confused on what he should do. Spending lunch in a situation equal to what happened at the stairs wouldn’t be a fulfilling meal for neither Mikado nor Kisa, and depending on it, the food could get stuck in their throats.

Kisa had grabbed her lunch to immediately dash out of the classroom the second fourth period ended, and Mikado was wondering if she made her way to the rooftop, or rather ran away to some underground shelter. There, Mizuki arrived again, completely disregarding the fact that she didn’t belong here.

“Mikado-kun!~ Let’s go to Mexico!”

“Where did that come from?!”

This was the first time for Mikado to be invited out on eating lunch together, in a different country. Mizuki slapped the palm of her hand on the desk.

“No buts! It’s Mexico time! I want to eat tacos! That’s why we’re going there with my private jet right this instant, I just have to call them!”

“Don’t call them! It’ll create a ruckus!”

“Then maybe if I call them to the teacher’s office?”

“That’ll destroy their room! Also, it would take us more than 14 hours to get to Mexico from here, so we wouldn’t even make it home before 5th period started.”

Mikado tried to reason with Mizuki, but naturally that didn’t work at all with the girl who even won against the Empress of Darkness in terms of being selfish.

“Don’t wanna! I want to eat tacos right now! I wanna feed Mikado-kun with the 2500° burning hot tacos!”

“That’s not tacos, that’s lava!”

“Anyway, come with me! If not, I’ll write the fact that you’re going on a date with a middle school girl, that you’re a lolicon on the homepage of every government office of the entire country! I’ll definitely do that!”

“Wah?!”

Although she was only three years apart from Mikado, Mizuki stomped on the floor like a small child. Following that, she threw herself on the floor, clinging to his leg. Even if he didn’t want this, he gathered attention from his classmates.

“Kitamikado was a lolicon...?”

“I was wondering if that wasn’t the case!”

“He’s got both Nanjou sisters for him...?!”

“I had you in the wrong light, Kitamikado-kun!”

“That means that even a baby-face like me has a chance!”

“Wait hold on, he’s a lolicon, not a shotacon!”

The classroom was wrapped up in a storm. Because of Mizuki’s sight, they started running the wildest assumptions. Some of them even took out smartphones to report Mikado, or gather evidence. Mikado felt a cold sweat run down his back, and called out to Mizuki.

“...I will hear you out. What is it that you want?”

“Just come with me, that’s all~”

Mizuki immediately jumped up in joy, clinging to his arm, as she pulled him out of the classroom. The rule of not running in the hallways probably didn’t exist in her books. Naturally, seeing Mikado pulled along by a beauty able to rival Kisa, the classmates were building opinions on their own, as they gazed at him.

“Hey, where are we going?!”

“A small, dark, and safe place! I’ll just lock up...No, seal up...No, secure you!”

“Even if you fix your words, I can still feel nothing good from this!”

“It’s fine! I’ll lock myself up with you!”

Mizuki entered a nearby classroom, entered a locker with cleaning utensils, and pulled Mikado after her, closing the door after. Though Mikado was contemplating about the safety, Mizuki wasn’t lying when she said that the place was small and dark. If not for the small amount of light entering through the opening in the door, he wouldn’t even be able to see his own two feet.

That being said, the amount of space given was nowhere near enough

for the two, so Mizuki's body was forcefully pressed against Mikado's. From her adolescent neck, a sweet scent drifted up, directly assaulting Mikado through his nostrils.

"Why was there a need to hide here...?"

"An enemy is going to attack! You're going to get eaten, Mikado-kun!"

"A wild beast? Then, we have to evacuate the students, or else..."

Mikado was about to leave the locker, only to be embraced by Mizuki.

"No! You won't be able to win against that thing! The enemy is a black hole after all! You'll get eaten in a fragment of a second!"

"What are we talking about?!"

Mikado yet again tried reaching for the door, only to have his finger bitten by Mizuki. As he tried reaching out with his other hand, this time he was stopped by a soft sensation.

"Hyan! Mikado, you pervert!"

"Sorry!" Mikado quickly pulled back his hand.

He didn't even have to guess where he just touched her—probably her chest, and it even felt awfully direct, as if she wasn't even wearing a bra—the second Mikado arrived at that thought, his body burned up.

"Really, attacking me as soon as it's just the two of us, you sure can't win against your desires~!"

"I didn't attack you! That just now was an accident!"

"Yes yes, I'll just let it slip as one."

"It really was an accident...!"

Mikado tried to argue back, but Mizuki didn't listen, just running her

lips up at his jaw.

“It’s fine, Mikado-kun. We’re inside this narrow place, so even if you were to touch me, it’d all be an accident...right?”

Her breath as sweet as milk reached Mikado’s lips. Even in this darkness, her eyes were radiating with charm. Her seductive techniques were too strong. If things went on for too long, Mikado might break.

“I won’t play along with this. I’m leaving!”

Mikado tried to forcefully leave the locker, but Mizuki stepped in yet again.

“I won’t let you! Not after doing this and that to me here!”

“I didn’t do anything yet!”

“Waah! So you’re going to do something now?!”

“As if I would!”

“You will, Mikado-kun! Because you’re always telling me to send you pictures of me in underwear!”

“You’re just sending them without my permission, Mizuki!”

“Kyaa~ You didn’t even put me in your family register, and yet you’re calling me by first name...”

“I’ve been calling you like that this entire time, so what’s the heat now?!”

As the two of them were fighting, the situation outside the locker changed. Kisa entered the classroom, asking a female student around.

“Did Mikado come here? My little sister should have been with him.”

“I didn’t see Kitamikado-san.” The female student answered.

“Really? If you’re hiding anything, I’ll go click on your entire family.”

“I’m not hiding anything! Also, what does that sound mean?!”

“That depends on your actions from here on out...”

“Eeeeeeeeeeeeeek?!”

Kisa threatened the girl, as she softly lifted up her chin with her fingers. At the same time, Mikado inside the locker felt a shiver as well. Mizuki’s assault inside the locker had him want to run away, but the outside was just as dangerous. Because Kisa would question him as to why he was in that locker with her own little sister. In rage, she might do something irreversible to her little sister, and it might lower her affection towards Mikado. He would like to avoid that, after finally finding out that she had this affection for him.

In order to stay unnoticed from Kisa, Mikado silenced his own breathing. Yet, probably not catching on—or maybe even because she knew—Mizuki flashed a teasing smile.

“Since I don’t want you taken, I’ll spit on you first.”

“Spit...?”

Mikado wasn’t even given the time to ready himself, as Mizuki’s hands already reached out for his head. Her beautiful face was approaching him. From her dampened lips, her small, red tongue came out, running over Mikado’s lips.

“?! ?! ...?!?!?”

With the sudden incident, Mikado felt this sensation continue for a few moments. His lips were being licked by Mizuki. Though it wasn’t a kiss, it was something awfully close to it, and more stimulating than a kiss depending on it.



“W-What are you...”

“Fufu, Mikado-kun is delicious!”

Mizuki licked her own lips after in satisfaction, approaching Mikado’s neck with her mouth this time, sending a shiver down his spine. The wet sensation remaining on his lips made his body burn up. Mizuki looked up at Mikado, whispering softly.

“Oh? Mikado-kun, are you being flustered?”

“Everybody would get flustered at something like this!”

“You can run away if you want to~ Because I won’t stop anymore~”
She said, clearly provoking him.

“How could I run in a situation like this...”

“Then I’m going to lick you some more~”

“...!!”

Mizuki’s hot tongue ran along Mikado’s neck, reaching up to his ears. Her slender body clung to Mikado, entangling her legs. He was slowly being pulled in by this scent, similar, yet also different to her older sister’s.

“...Leave it at that.” Mikado sighed.

He embraced her small body.

“M-Mikado-kun...?”

Mizuki was left bewildered, pulled tightly to Mikado’s chest. She acted like a cat, suddenly picked up by its owner. As he started gently stroking the girl’s hair, she stopped resisting fully.

“To me, you are my precious ‘Little sister’, Mizuki.”

“I’m not...your little sister...”

“Yes you are. You are cute, honest, innocent, and just fun to have around, comforting me in hard times. I like the time we spend together.”

Mizuki blushed at Mikado’s words. Even though she would always be on the teasing and, this time she was hit by Mikado’s surprise attack. With her slender fingers, she grabbed the shirt of Mikado.

“R-Right? That’s why, just choose me instead of Onee-chan.”

“That being said, Kisa is the one I devoted my heart to. All these

things like charm, cuteness, fun, it doesn't matter anymore. I am Kitamikado Mikado, a man who follows through with his emotions." Mikado announced confidently.

"...Uncool." Mizuki muttered.

She pouted with her lips, as she sulked, rubbing her head on Mikado's chest.

"You're not cool at all, Mikado-kun. Rejecting my first love in such fashion."

"I don't care if I'm not cool."

"Then again...this is the Mikado-kun I fell in love with...so I guess we're both the same."

Rinka found herself in mental anguish. Having lost in the match of rock-paper-scissors against Mizuki, she had to unwillingly hand over the job of taking care of Mikado, now tasked with keeping Kisa away from him. Though this might be better than being forced to dig a hole and fill it again, like Kokage was doing right this moment, the person Rinka had to deal with was the successor of the Nanjou Family.

For the Shizukawa Family, who worked in the light of Japan, their values were just too different. Rinka felt like dealing with Mizuki would have been easier, as she followed Kisa around. Kisa on her part went into another class' classroom, asking the female students if they knew about Mikado's whereabouts. Though she didn't know where Mikado had, Rinka couldn't allow the two to meet each other.

"Um...Kisa-san? If you're looking for Mikado-sama, I think he will make his way to the rooftop eventually."

"Eh, Mikado?! Why would you just bring up Kitamikado-san like that?! I-I wasn't looking for him or anything! Yes, not at all!" Kisa crossed her arms.

"You were clearly looking for him. You don't have to panic like that..."

“I-I’m not panicking at all! I am always calm, cool, and collected, with a calm presence of mind, because that is my value as the ones calling themselves Empress of Darkness! I am acting like I always would! I don’t care about Kitamikado-san! Nothing happened between us!” Kisa kept rambling.

“The way you talk is off already! You’re suddenly calling him ‘Kitamikado-san’ again!”

“My way of talking is not weird at &%@J\$#~ + N%A!”

“You’re not even speaking English anymore!” Rinka was at a loss.

Even before the problems of her being a Nanjou Family member, she found trouble building a normal conversation. With her face beet red, her hair standing straight, Kisa looked more like a stray cat. She took steps back from Rinka, losing her step on the ground, and sunk on the floor with tears in her eyes. Even though she was a fellow girl, Rinka felt like she was about to die from the cuteness. It made sense that she had stolen Mikado’s heart.

“For now, how about we go up to the rooftop? Everyone else might already be present.” Rinka reached out for Kisa with her hand.

“Y-Yes...”

Unexpectedly honest, Kisa took Rinka’s hand, and stood up. She just blindly followed Rinka, who walked down the hallway with the lunch box in her hand. She had her face cast downward, with her cheeks red, almost like a different person.

—What is she planning?!

Rinka was highly dubious at first, imagining Kisa to attack her with a hidden weapon, aiming to get control over the school, or similar things, but none of that came. It really was an irregularity. Normally, swinging around a weapon at school would be the irregularity, but for Kisa, the opposite counted.

Rinka and Kisa arrived at the rooftop. A soft breeze blew past them beneath the blue sky, as the scent of flowers reached them. No other students were present on the rooftop. Mizuki should be busy with

Mikado right now, and Kokage was...also doing something important. At the same time, this meant that Rinka had to spend the lunch break with her rival here. In other words, it was awfully awkward. Next to Rinka was Kisa, who put her hand on the fence, admiring the scenery.

“All these flowers...so beautiful.”

“Who are you?!”

Left with shock, Rinka took her distance from Kisa.

“I am Nanjou Kisa. The future wife of Kitamikado Mikado.”

“Wife...?!”

“And, I will be the mother two a hundred children...”

“That’s way too many! You can’t be Kisa-san! She would never dare speak out such embarrassing things! She is the type of person to burn down the flowers because they rival her in beauty!”

Kisa’s eyes opened wide.

“Oh my. There is no person so cruel in this world these flowsies.”

“Flowsies?!”

Kisa put the palm of her hand on her chest, smiling kindly.

“Yes, the flowsies. They must be congratulating the love that Kitamikado-san and I had found. The squirrels, mice, sheep, all living beings’ happiness is my happiness.”

“You really are a different person! The Nanjou Kisa-san I know would not hold such kindness in her heart! She is the devil reincarnated!”

Then again, Rinka was torn between her desire to have Kisa stay this way, and to have her return. If Kisa had stayed this way, the world might become a better place.

“Um...Rinka-san.”

Kisa took a step forward, calmly, leaving Rinka in shock. She assumed that Kisa would finally be acting, fearing that she might be killed now. But, even after she closed her eyes, bracing herself, nothing happened. Slowly opening her eyes, Kisa had lowered her head.

“W-What...?” Rinka was bewildered.

“I’m sorry. I troubled you a lot.”

“Eh.....”

“Although it was all for my goal to be together with Kitamikado-san, I made you go through various scary memories. I know you might not be able to forgive me, but still...I’m sorry.”

“...!” Rinka felt an odd sense of rage starting to dwell up inside of her.

She didn’t know why she felt this anger, even though she was just apologized to. Maybe because this was like saying that she had already lost.

“It really is too late! You hijack the plane on the way to our pre-honeymoon, lock us up in some foreign country, and have the military chase us for several days!”

“I understand...No, I actually don’t. Because this is normal in the world I come from. But, I know that I made you suffer.”

“That’s right! That’s why, even if you apologize now...”

There is no way I can forgive you, Rinka wanted to say, but Kisa spoke up yet again.

“I was panicking. Afraid that you might take away Kitamikado-san. Your body and heart are both much more beautiful than mine, both families had accepted you as his fiance, so it would make sense that you would be the winner in the end.”

“W-What are you...talking about?” Rinka was scared.

Hearing Kisa praise somebody else like this. She judged that she probably didn't mean what she said, so she waved her hands.

"Also, being his fiance is just a name. Naturally I was happy about it, but it was nothing more than a bother for Mikado-sama...You always had the upper hand, Kisa-san."

"No, the wall between Kitamikado and Nanjou isn't that easy to break. I was unbearably jealous of you. The times I wished to be you, I lost count. Because I like Mikado. I love him so much it's making me crazy."

Kisa looked straight at Rinka, her eyes showing no hesitation. No fraud or lie either, Kisa just told her rival in love about her feelings.

"Not fair...saying all of this..." Rinka muttered.

The person she assumed to be the devil reincarnated, luring Mikado into the darkness, was just another girl in love. Just as Rinka herself, Kisa held pure feelings for Mikado. Now that she knew of this, she understood Kisa a bit more, and why she would go so far as she had.

"Kisa-san, say...What part of Mikado-sama do you like?"

She knew she shouldn't be asking this, and yet the words came out of her mouth oh so naturally.

"...Everything." Kisa showed the kind smile of a goddess, as she embraced her body with both her arms.

After classes came to an end, when his other classmates had already made their way home, Mikado stayed inside his classroom. He wouldn't be able to take another night in anguish at this rate. He wanted to bring the love game to a conclusion as quickly as possible. But, even more than that, he wanted to talk to Kisa. Affirming her feelings. He knew she would be feeling the same way. That's why there was no need to call her here.

Just as expected, she arrived. Her hair had been beautifully arranged the same way she had come to school that morning, with sparkling lip gloss, meaning that she was ready for the final showdown. Yet, her knees were shaking ever so slightly.

“...I thought you’d be here.”

“...I knew you’d come.”

Even though they tried to act cool, both their voices were clearly husky. Just as Mikado’s heartbeat was racing faster and faster, Kisa herself probably wasn’t too different. Kisa gulped once with her white throat, and entered the classroom. She closed the door behind her, and together with the sound of the door being locked, they were now isolated, signaling the start of the last game.

Kisa slowly walked towards Mikado.

“I analyzed the evidence. As a result, the video turned out to be the real deal. You love me. That means that this game is my win.”

“Sorry to ruin your mood, but it’s not. Because I did the same with the footage I got, and this showed that you love me. Meaning that it’s a draw.”

The two glared at each other, sparks flying. It was an irregularly stiff atmosphere, even though they had basically confessed to each other. Now that the proof for their feelings was out, they had to decide on who was the one to first admit their feelings.

“Even if you say that it wasn’t fake, there’s no outside view on this. It’s lacking credibility.”

“That’s the same for you, isn’t it.”

“Then, what should we do? At this rate, we’ll never get a winner.”
Kisa raised her chin in provocation.

“But, you were awfully passionate to get this footage on my smartphone. You had your private squad move in, setting up relentless attacks, and even tried to destroy the phone down in the sewers. That desperate attitude showed more than anything that the footage was real.”

“Weren’t you just as desperate? You wouldn’t let go of your smartphone for a second, protecting it with your life. That proved that the evidence you held was the real deal!”

“Protecting it with my own life is a bit of an old saying...But, this still doesn’t mean anything.”

“And why is that?”

Mikado shrugged.

“What kind of human is there who wouldn’t protect his smartphone? Especially me, as I have the numbers and mail addresses of Japan’s most important people on there, as well as some secure data. If I had that stolen by the enemy, things could end horribly. That’s why I deemed it necessary to run away with it.”

Kisa threw in a rebuttal.

“I-I was after that data! That’s why me being desperate doesn’t account as proof for the evidence being real!”

“No, it does. There should have been countless times where you had the chance to steal my smartphone. So why go all out yesterday? That’s because there was now data more valuable than ever. In other words, the video footage and evidence of your feelings for me. It’s clear you were aiming for that.”

Mikado stabbed right into Kisa’s defence with irrefutable logic. Yet, the inside of him turned into a storm just by stating Kisa’s feelings for him. That being said, in order to obtain the future he wanted, he had to pull through with it right now.

“Ugh...” Kisa took a step back.

The passion she had showed the day prior now turned into poison. Mikado knew this, and aimed for that weakness.

“Fufu...fufufufufu...”

Kisa had her expression cast downward, tightly gripping her phone, laughing maliciously. Even though she should be the one cornered, she looked awfully confident. Reflected in her gemstone-like eyes was...hope. And overflowing confidence.

“Stop grumbling about something trivial like that, and admit that you

like me!”

Kisa pressed a button on her smartphone, as alarm sounds started buzzing up everywhere. Shutters came down at the door, and in front of the various windows. A locking sound arrived at Mikado’s ears, as the shutters had giant locks on them, sealing off any possible escape.

—I’m being locked in?!

Mikado was frightened. He didn’t expect Kisa to pull a move at such a time. He hadn’t picked up at all on her rearrangement of the classroom. Following that, the tabletops of the desks turned sideways, forming screens. Something like a planetarium ball came down from the ceiling, illuminating the desks.

“You have loved Kisa-san this entire time. I am well aware of that.”

“Yeah. That’s why, I can’t...”

“You have loved Kisa-san this entire time. I am well aware of that.”

“Yeah. That’s why, I can’t...”

“You have loved Kisa-san this entire time. I am well aware of that.”

“Yeah. That’s why, I can’t...”

Shown hundreds of times was the confession of Mikado’s affection. He was forced to watch this embarrassing moment over and over, as the recordings overlapped.

“S-Stoooooooooooooop!?”

Mikado panicked, reaching for the smartphone in Kisa’s hand, but she swiftly hid it in the pocket of her skirt. She apparently had learned properly from the lesson yesterday, where she had lied about the smartphone being in her chest. Even Mikado couldn’t be so cold-hearted as to put his hands in there. Because that would make him an assailant. Said Kisa now moved towards Mikado, lifting his chin with her index finger.

“Your heart must be in tatters at this point, am I right? Just admit it,

and kneel down in front of me. If so, I will bring an end to this hell... okay?"

"As if I'd let it end here!"

"Kya?!"

Albeit being driven into a corner, Mikado reacted quickly, reaching out for the back of Kisa's knees with one hand, lifting her up. A perfect display of a princess carry. Mikado heard that girls admired this kind of position. Though he was unsure if something of this level would work against Kisa, he had no other means of fighting back right now. With Kisa in his arms, Mikado brought his face closer to her cheek, softly whispering.

"I'm well aware of your feelings already. Just give in, and become mine." Mikado felt embarrassed saying this.

He was putting on airs at a level where he wanted to dig a hole and hide himself. However, Kisa just looked up at him in a daze.

"S-So cool..."

"You're fine with everything as long as it's me, huh?!"

"O-Of course not! You were just a tiny bit cool right there! It made my heart skip a beat! That's not fair, Mikado!" Kisa started hammering her tiny hands on his chest.

"Ugh..."

The force of her relentless attack was awfully weak—but maybe because of that, Mikado received even more damage. Knowing that he had made her heart skip, his heart couldn't stay calm. Kisa saw this as a chance. She rubbed her head on Mikado's chest, looking up at him like a puppy.

"Hey...Mikado? Do you...like me? Can you say that you like me? I want to hear it from your mouth..."

"Guha?!"

Mikado spit up blood. The damage meter had crossed the limit, reaching dangerous levels.

“With just one sentence, I’ll be yours. I’ll become your wife, and offer my everything to you. I’ll definitely make you happy, and bear as many children as you want.”

“Ugh...Gahh...”

Mikado tried clenching his fist in pain to suppress the damage hitting him. That marked the moment he had mustered up the most strength in his life so far. And Kisa wasn’t done yet.

“Mi-ka-do. Please, nya~”

“I would never give in to an attack of this leve—!!!”

Mikado fell unconscious whilst standing. The cuteness meter had reached its limit, giving him the final blow. That being said, the automatic ‘Kitamikado Protocol’ booted up—which had been hammered into him as a defensive measure to quickly recover from a fatal blow—as he bit his lip, regaining consciousness shortly after. The pain helped Mikado in regaining a cool head, as his rational thinking gained the upper hand over his feelings.

Mikado put down Kisa onto the teacher’s desk, embracing her head, as he softly whispered into her ear.

“Kisa. I want to hear it from you. With this world’s cutest voice that you possess, tell me that you like me.”

“C-Cute...I’m not...” Kisa started blushing furiously.

“You are cute. Your voice is cuter than anybody else’s...Cute...so cute...”

“S-Stop...please...”

Mikado kept repeating his words as he put his lips on her ears, which led Kisa to lose all strength in her body. Right as she was about to fall off the teacher’ desk, Mikado embraced her. By doing so, he gave her a chance to bite into his ear instead.

“H-Hey?! Kisa?!”

“You dare do that to me! Hurry up and say it! Hurry up! If not, I’ll continue to bite your ear for the rest of our lives! I won’t ever let go!”

She called it biting, but it felt more like a gentle caress instead. Mikado couldn’t stand against the pressure, falling back to the ground, as the girl’s hair tickled his cheek. Whilst being attacked by Kisa in such fashion, Mikado started calculating the next attack.

Around one hour had passed since this strategic warfare started.

“Huff...huff...”

“Haa...phew...”

Both Mikado and Kisa laid collapsed on the floor, gasping for air. Both of them had received damage beyond the reasonable margin, down on the count. Yet, neither of them confessed. They fought worthy (?) of being the successors of Japan’s light and shadow. Kisa slammed her hand on the floor, glaring at Mikado.

“Really, why won’t you say it, Mikado...so obstinate...”

“Right back at you...”

Only a bit more, and he could have taken her hand. This was the first time Mikado had spoken his heart this much, and the embarrassment had vanished now. If possible, he would have loved to make this the last game, but...

“Can’t help it. We’ll continue this another time.” Mikado sighed as he got up.

If he continued to suffer from Kisa’s relentless attacks anymore, he would probably lose himself.

“M-My, so you’re scared of my unbeatable cuteness?” Kisa spoke in a provocative manner.

“That’s right, you are just too cute.”

“...!”

Hearing Mikado's straight response, her ears started to turn red.

“That's why, let me go home for the day.”

“O-Okay...”

She took out the smartphone from her pocket, pressing a button on the screen. Following that, the shutters everywhere went up, and the classroom returned back to normal.

“Then, see you tomorrow.”

“Wait!”

Mikado was about to escape onto the hallway, when Kisa suddenly grabbed her shirt.

“...You still wanna go?”

“No...that's...not it.” Kisa started fidgeting nervously.

“What's wrong?”

“U-Um...I didn't call a car for me yet...so...you know?” Kisa gazed up at Mikado.

Seeing his, Mikado felt his breathing come to a halt. He didn't think she'd try an honest approach like this. If it wasn't for the rift between their families, a normal youth with his beloved Kisa might have been possible. The girl would just invite the boy after school, as they go their way, taking detours to enjoy themselves.

“Then...should we go home together?”

Even though Mikado mustered up all his courage, Kisa ruined this as she giggled.

“My my, you want to go home with me that badly? We spend time together at school, and yet that's not enough? How pitiful...you really must love me.”

“Wah...you...” Mikado blushed furiously.

“I’m joking. Let’s go home together.”

Having his wrist taken along by Kisa, her innocent and blissful smile made Mikado feel like he could forgive his girl for just everything. It had been like this since forever. There was the side of her, as the successor of the Empress of Darkness, and the normal girl Kisa, smiling blissfully.

Mikado and Kisa walked down the hallway. Kisa probably wasn’t used to his action, and felt anxious at it, as she tightly gripped her student bag. Mikado saw this, and yet was unable to do anything about it. Which leg would he have to move first? The left, or the right? Where should he put his gaze?

“What...are you gazing around for? ...Did you not want to go home with me after all?” Kisa asked anxiously.

“Of course I did. I always...wanted to do something like this.”

“I-I see...M-Me too...”

Since she whispered the later part, Mikado had to ask what she said, just to make sure.

“What was that? Could you say that again?”

“S-Something like this...has been a dream of mine...”

“A-A dream? That much...?”

“S-Something wrong with that?!” Kisa blushed furiously, casting her face downward.

—Wasn’t that just like a confession?

For some reason, Mikado felt an odd sense of pain in his chest. The two had been unaware of each other’s feelings, just continuing to be shackled by their families. How long had this time passed on? Maybe Mikado felt glad now that this would come to an end. Yet, an odd sense of distance was built, as the two left the entrance.

Normally he'd be taking his car home now, so walking down the courtyard next to Kisa felt a bit surreal. Not to mention that Mikado never had returned by foot ever since he started attending school. It was like they had stopped the successors of Japan's two most influential families, just two normal citizens.

—Now, what to do about this.

Walking alongside the bus road, Mikado started thinking. A Y street was approaching them. Going right on the national highway, they would arrive at the shortest route to their respective homes. A great portion of students would frequent the train station there, so that would be the part where Kisa and Mikado would separate.

Choosing the left way, they could walk through the shopping street. But, this would also turn into a great detour, which might result in Kisa asking him such things as 'You wanted to go on a date with me that badly?'

—What will Kisa do?

Mikado went to check Kisa's actions. As for her, she made her way straight to the national highway. However, that was just how it looked on the outside. Her eyes often wandered over to the shopping district, as well as checking how Mikado reacted.

"...Kisa. Let me ask one thing. Do you have any urgent business today?"

Kisa heard Mikado's words, answering with slight hesitation.

"Eh? L-Let me see...If I had to name something, I am probably busy crashing the share prices to deliver despair to the citizens?"

"Nothing important I see, good!"

"It's very important! It's to show the people that they can't go against me, a very interesting way of passing time!"

"Just leave that aside! The citizens need to live their dreams!!"

"It's the job of us rulers to dampen their dreams..."

“It’s not our job at all! We have the duty to enable their dreams!”

Reigning over people was not Mikado’s intention. There were more important things at this moment. He had to somehow invite Kisa on this after-school date at any cost.

“W-Well? It’s not like I have to do that today at all costs, so i-if something more urgent came up, I could still make time in my schedule?” Kisa spoke, as she restlessly looked over at the shopping district.

It was quite clear that she also wanted to take a stroll through there. That being said, neither of them could truly ask the other out, as this would lead them to a disadvantage in the battle to come.

...In other words, this was a so-called game of chicken. Normally, such a game consisted of two cars driving towards the other, the one to step on the brakes first crowned the loser. This time, the breakpoint was regarded as the split-up section of the Y street they approached. If neither of them used the brakes, they would soon split up again, spending the rest of their day alone, regretting this. However, stepping on the brakes would be a clear show of affection, hence giving them a disadvantage. A sure-fire way to win was to inflict fear into the other person, showing them that they had to act first, or they would die.

—No other choice but to do it!

Mikado heightened his walking speed. Seeing this, Kisa followed suit. She apparently was willing to jump on the game of chicken.

“H-Hey, why are you in a rush like that!”

“I’m not in a rush...If I had to say it, then I’m living on the fast lane.”

“That doesn’t make any sense!”

“The train is going to be there soon!”

Mikado sped up even further, jogging along the street now. Kisa yet again did the same.

“There’s going to be another train coming soon!”

“Even so! The same train won’t ever come again!”

“It will! That’s how trains work!”

“But, is it really the same train from before?! Isn’t it just a train looking similar?! I will not be deceived!”

“Who cares about something like that!”

The boy and girl were dashing down the street at full speed. With the sounds of their shoes hitting the ground at great momentum, they gathered onlookers everywhere. Neither of them could step down. They both tried to push the other into giving in from the fear.

“Ahhh, just stay still already!”

“...?!”

Something flew from inside Kisa’s sleeve, which Mikado barely managed to avoid. Right as it flew past him, he saw that it was a needle. Instead of him, the needle hit a passing salaryman, rendering him unconscious right away.

Mikado reacted quickly, catching the man, softly lowering him to the ground. Since this was a weapon aimed at Mikado, it shouldn’t have contained any deadly poison. In reality, the salaryman had a blissful expression, as he slept. He had bags beneath his eyes, so a good round of sleep didn’t hurt him.

Yet, in this short time, Kisa had already taken a twenty meters distance from Mikado.

“Fool! As you were held back with sympathy, you ended up losing! You won’t be able to catch up with me anymore!”

“And what good does this for you?!”

Inflicting fear onto her opponent was one thing, but with this much distance, there was nothing gained. Maybe only Mikado had been participating in this game of chicken, and Kisa just wanted to go

home. This left Mikado worried.

“Guess...I'll have to get serious then.”

He kicked the ground, and immediately gained a few meters on Kisa. Rather than running, his action was more defined by ‘Catching’, as his eyes were only focussed on Kisa. After that, it involved even further, into a ‘Flying’ motion. In a mere blink, Mikado caught up with Kisa.

“Aren’t you a bit too serious?!”

“I don’t want to hear that from the person who tried to get me unconscious with a poisoned needle!”

“I just happened to drop it! It was an accident that it hit someone!”

“It sure looked like it was aiming for my neck though!”

Only five meters until the divergence. Kisa showed no signs of heading to the shopping district. Mikado finally managed to line up with her at the one meter mark. At this rate, they might really go home already.

—Are you really fine with that?! Are you satisfied already?!

Kisa was only looking ahead. A drop of sweat ran down her white throat. The precipitous cliff was right in front of them. Mikado’s toes made it past the divergence.

—I can ‘t let it end here!

The following moment, the both of them leaped at the entrance of the shopping street. At the exact same time. Kisa sunk down onto the floor, out of breath.

“W-What are we doing...really...”

“Not a race...?”

In the end, the game of chicken ended up in a draw. Though Mikado felt happy that they had the same desire, and that he avoided the

agony of going home alone already, he was tired.

“We’re here already, so why don’t we look around for a bit?”

“I don’t mind! It wouldn’t hurt to study the lives of the citizens I will eventually bring to ruin.”

“Again, no ruining people’s lives.”

Yet, Mikado was relieved at Kisa’s agreement. Since other routes converged here, such as the train station nearby, or Sousei Academy, a great number of people passed through the shopping street. There seemed to have been a sale on western clothes, as a lot of women stood in a crowd. Kisa’s slender body was quickly washed along this mass. Unlike the students of Sousei Academy, they didn’t know who Kisa was, and what she was able to do, showing absolutely no restraint.

“What arrogant fellows! I have to teach them some respect!”

Out of wherever, Kisa pulled out two giant daggers.

“No need for that. Come with me.”

“Ah...”

Mikado took Kisa’s hand, as he started walking. He led her in a way that she wouldn’t bump into other people, protecting her and the others from possible injuries. Naturally, Mikado was aware of his bold actions at this very moment. That being said, something of this level should be forgiven, looking at the current situation. That this shouldn’t have any influence on the love game. But...even more than anything, he probably just wanted to hold hands with Kisa.



At first, Kisa just had Mikado pull her hand, but after a bit of time passed, her hand relaxed, as she returned the grip. That alone was enough to send pins and needles deeply down into Mikado's being. They would hold hands like this when they were younger, but as time passed, and as they grew up, the distance between them would grow proportionally. That's why doing something like this was resembling a dream.

—I wonder where I should take Kisa to make her happy.

Mikado started thinking. Although it was on the way home from school, this technically counted as their first date. He didn't want her to think of him as a boring man. He had to make her enjoy herself, so that she would want to do this again.

That being said, with this sudden impulse of happiness, Mikado couldn't come up with a proper plan. He didn't have the time to put in a reservation at a restaurant, not to mention that he probably wouldn't be able to find a store that could deliver a taste befitting to Kisa's tongue. Mizuki was the type of fast-food eater, but that wouldn't work for her older sister. Hence, Mikado just saw his only option in directly asking her.

"What do you want to do, Kisa?"

"Eh? U-Um...let me think...it's still noon, so staying over somewhere would be a bit too fast, so I'm a bit lost on how to answer that!"

"Nobody mentioned staying over somewhere!"

"We're going to do it outside?!"

"What are we even talking about?!"

Mikado felt his body burn up. Naturally, he didn't hate the idea of... doing this with Kisa, but maybe it was his virgin heart that wished for the steps to come a bit slower.

"Um...then, you can decide, Mikado! I'll follow you wherever you want to go!"

"Wherever I want to go, huh..."

"Y-Yeah." Kisa muttered as her ears turned red.

This Empress might actually be the type to fully devote herself to Mikado. For Mikado, who had assumed she could only think about destruction and despair, this tickled his chest in a comfortable way.

The two of them walked down the shopping street. Passing by the

front of a department store, giving unbelievably cheap shoes on sale a sideways glance, there now stood a tall building in front of them. This seemed to have been a building gathering stores with food and drinks, as the posters and billboards showed menus.

“They have a lot of cafes here...A cat cafe, rabbit cafe, an owl cafe even...What do you prefer, Kisa?”

“I’m interested in the Screaming Hell cafe.”

“Let’s hold off of that.”

“Then...the slug cafe?”

“None of that either.”

Mikado was quite interested in these exotic cafes as well, but it didn’t quite feel right for their first date. They could go on an adventure in the future.

“Guess we’ll just go with the safe cat cafe.”

Mikado announced his choice, but Kisa gazed at the poster, slightly worried.

“Will this be fine...I never tried cats before...”

“A cat cafe doesn’t serve cats!”

“They don’t?! What kind of fraud is this?!”

“It’s not fraud. A cat cafe is a place where you can enjoy drinks and some small snacks, while looking at the cats. You can even buy cat food and feed them.”

Mikado explained what he knew, but in reality, he received all this information from a male classmate of his. In terms of knowing about the normal lives of citizens, the Kitamikado Family wasn’t far off from the Nanjou Family.

“Even though we enter the cafe, we pay the food for the staff, the cats?! How...how shameless! I won’t forgive this!”

“Just forgive them. It’s probably like a salary. It must be tough playing along with these crazy cat lovers.”

“I see...so cats are selling themselves in order to survive...”

“You’re not wrong, but that way of phrasing it is awful.”

The two of them headed up the stairs to the third floor. The stairs looked awfully unstable, as well as slim beyond reasonable safety hazards, so Mikado felt worried for Kisa’s well-being. Kisa on her hand pushed down her skirt as well, so that nobody could look beneath that. Finally, they made it up to the third floor, rang the doorbell, and headed inside. The inside was built up with two layers, the first consisting of a small room with the reception, the later a bigger room, inhabiting the cats. You get one drink on the menu, with thirty minutes, with an additional possible ten minutes.

Mikado ordered green tea, whereas Kisa chose black tea, and received the orders of the store. To always wear socks or stockings, don’t forcefully pick up the cats, don’t feed the individual cats more than once or twice, quite in detail. A male classmate of Mikado had given him a crucial advice before:

“Listen, don’t just think of touching the cats carelessly. That is harder than getting a chance at a handshake event with a famous idol. Don’t expect to receive any affection, and just give them all of yours.”

Hearing the instructions, Mikado nodded along.

“I...I lost the confidence to really spoil these cats...” Kisa sighed.

“Well, it should be fine.”

After being forced to the instructions, they finally were allowed to meet the royalty. Right as they took a step in—

“Shaaaaaaaaaaaaa—!!!”

All the cats in the room jumped up. It wasn’t on the level of not wanting to be touched or spoiled. All of the cats present hid in the shadows, or other objects at full speed. Entering their cat boxes, jumping onto nearby shelves, even beneath the carpet. A female staff

nearby was at a loss.

“Eh, everyone?! What happened?!”

The staff tried to carefully pick up a cat from the nearby cat tower, but the cat clung to it as if its life depended on it. Mikado immediately understood the reason for that. From Kisa's body, a passionate, overwhelming aura started leaking.

“Now...be spoiled by me...If not...you know what will happen, right...?” The goddess of darkness grinned.

“Don't glare at the cats like you'd burn down the world if they didn't come!”

“I have to show them who's boss right off the beginning...”

“I'm pretty sure you look like the last boss to them!”

“They aren't wrong...Either way, I will be the woman to reign over the world...”

It was especially scary because Kisa clearly had the capability to do it. Mikado didn't expect any other man to be able to hold his ground against her, hence why he had to win this love game no matter what.

But, leaving that aside, he couldn't keep this situation going. At this point, they were just bothering the cafe, dampening their sales as the cats wouldn't dare coming out. That's why Mikado decided to show Kisa how to properly appreciate cats.

“You can't scare them like that. You get closer to them like this.”

He carefully picked up the cat even the staff couldn't tear off the cat house, gently running his hand along its back. Feeling his palm, the cat slowly calmed down in his hands.

“See?”

“I see you are used to this. Is that how you laid your hands on Shizukawa-san or my little sister? ...You player.” Kisa showed Mikado a cold glare.

“Don’t make me sound like some gigolo. I had to use techniques like that when I was battling wild animals in the jungle, like giant snakes. This technique also works for cats.”

“I’d love to ask how you even ended up in a jungle, but...I’m pretty sure snakes and cats are different!”

“They’re the same. They both aim for my life.”

“I’m not all too familiar with cats, but I don’t think cats are capable of killing you!”

“Don’t let down your guard. Having the blood of wild animals in them, at the root of cats lies still a ferocious beast.”

If there was even a 1% chance of being killed, Mikado prepared countermeasures. Even as he was patting the cat, he was always ready to intercept any possible attack. The cat apparently understood this, as it didn’t even dare to pull out its claws. Rather, it apparently held quite positive affection for him, as it stood up on two legs, kissing Mikado on the cheek.

“Wha...?!” Kisa’s eyes opened wide. “A-A kiss...It kissed...Mikado...”

The cat clung to Mikado, pressing itself against his chest. It had been scared not even a minute ago, and now it reacted like Mikado was its mother. Kisa on her hand pouted.

“...I’m going home.”

“Wha?! Is there something you didn’t like here?!”

Mikado panicked. He didn’t want their first date to end this quickly.

“...That cat...is seducing you.”

“Seducing?! Are you jealous of a cat?!”

“I-I’m not jealous or anything! It’s your fault for not staying consistent with your feelings! Pervert! Making girls cry!” Kisa glared at Mikado with tears in her eyes.

—So freaking cute...!

Mikado felt like his heart was tickled by a sweet embrace. He thought of using this to bring out further jealousy from Kisa, but since she was close to breaking out in tears, he gave up on that idea. Instead, he gently put the cat in Kisa's arms.

“How about you try it as well?”

“Wah, not so sudden...!”

Kisa was now the one to panic. Barely avoiding to drop the cat, she carefully ran her fingers along its belly. Maybe because she felt Kisa's tension, or the danger emitting from her body, the cat froze up, as if it was playing dead.

“It's not relaxing at all. Maybe it thinks of me as a rival.”

“I don't think so. If I had to guess, it's trying not to make you its enemy.”

This sight brought a certain memory back to Mikado's head. Back during the time the two snuck away from parties to play with each other, Mikado spotted a stray dog, and took care of it, but Kisa never tried approaching it once. Mikado just assumed her to be scared of the dog, but in reality, she must have been alienated to the idea of taking care of aliens. Most likely, she was not allowed to take care of any pets in her family.

“Like this...you gently rub it right at its nose.”

“Hya?!”

Mikado carefully took Kisa's hand to fulfill the motion he spoke off, as Kisa's ears turned into a faint red. They were at a distance close enough for him to catch a whiff of her scent. Kisa bit her lip in embarrassment, as she left her hand to Mikado. At the same time, the cat started to relax ever so slightly.

“Ah...”

“See? Not that difficult, right?”

“Y-Yes.”

As Mikado removed his hand, Kisa continued as she was taught. She left her hand in that one position, possibly scared of making a mistake otherwise.

“How cute...”

She softly embraced the cat, smiling happily.

Watching this, Mikado thought...

—Just like you.

But, naturally, he couldn't speak these words out loud.

Chapter 3: Shackles

The morning light shone into Mikado's eye like an arrow. The giant canvas called the sky showed barely any white giant dots. In half of a daze, Mikado finished his preparations for school, left the Kitamikado residence, and squinched his eyes together in the daylight. He stepped into the black car driving him to school, reminiscing about what happened the day prior, pondering if this had really happened or not.

He had no confidence in that. Maybe it had all been a plan of Kisa's? Then again, could she have been able to show such a genuine expression? Most likely, that Kisa had been the real one. If the Kisa Mikado had known a few years back would have grown up outside the Nanjou Family, she might have become an innocent girl she had been yesterday. That begged the question...what is that normal Kisa?

Inside the car, which currently drove over the highway, Mikado was racing thoughts like these, as he gazed outside the side mirror, spotting a mysterious presence. A gray Sedan, with smoked glass. Normally, there would be nothing ominous about this. However, Mikado had kept an eye on them, as they had been behind them ever since Mikado's car drove out onto the street. On top of that, they weren't exactly behind them, but kept a solid 3-car distance between them. The average distance you would keep to not make your target suspicious.

Any normal person would certainly not pick up on this, but Mikado had been schooled to be careful and wary of things as this. He called out to his driver in a quiet voice.

“...Behind us. We're being tailed.”

“...Yes.”

The driver themselves had picked up on this as well. He acted calmly still, as his hands grabbed the steering wheel. Holding the duty of safely transporting the future guiding light of Japan, they were

trained to the utter limit. Spotting any possible followers, they possessed the moral to protect Mikado at all costs, even if it would cost them their life.

“Four cars behind us, the black Sedan. Clicking anything?” Mikado asked.

“First time. Shake them off? Or would you rather...”

A hard box slowly rose up from the floor of the car. What was revealed inside was a small-type shotgun. The impact and form of the bullets had been specifically made, as you could deal with a threat right away without having to call the police.

“No, as long as they don’t attack us, there is no need to fight back. We don’t even know their goal yet.”

“Understood.”

With the answer of the driver, the box was lowered once again. Mikado assumed the one to tail them was probably Kisa anyway, but for what reason? Wondering about this, Mikado eventually arrived at Sousei Academy, and made his way through the entrance. Right there, he ran into Kisa.

“Hya?! M-Mikado?!”

Kisa had one leg in her air like a flamingo, putting on her shoes, only to fall over in shock at Mikado’s appearance. Following this motion was a loud banging sound, together with a groan.

“Kisa?! You okay?!”

Mikado came rushing to Kisa’s side, and yet she panicky rushed backwards, her face blushing furiously.

“O-O-O-Of course I’m fine! I’m the woman to control the darkness in Japan, someone who would even deceive a crying child! So why would I start crying at something like this! Don’t act so close all of a sudden! Don’t think you can do whatever you want with me just because we went on one date togethmguh—”

Mikado hurried to close her mouth with the palm of his hand.

“Mghh! Mghhugh!”

“Calm down! People will hear you!”

Mikado tried to warn Kisa, but she kept panicking, not listening to him at all. She even scratched his hand like a cat would. Naturally, the students around them already heard most of what they had to.

“No way...did you hear that?”

“Kitamikado-san went on a date with Nanjou-san...?”

“All-night long...?”

“I could have never imagined that Kitamikado-kun would become a father so soon!”

“Apparently, he already has grandchildren!”

“No way, impossible! A high school student can’t have grandchildren!”

The students were already creating awful rumours. No, less than rumours, they were just wild fantasies. Kisa picked up on this, as her expression turned pale. She fixed her wrinkled skirt, slamming her fist on the shoebox. A loud bang resounded, something you wouldn’t expect from her slender arm. This had the students freeze up. Kisa looked around them, speaking up with a cold tone.

“You all didn’t see anything, you didn’t hear anything...Did I make myself clear?”

“Roger!!”

The students’ voices overlapped, as they scattered. Even the students who had just walked into the entrance saw this scene, and turned around to walk back onto the courtyard. Boys and girls alike were scared of the successor of the Nanjou Family. Mikado realized just how lucky he was, being able to see her girly side. Yet, in a situation like this, he felt relief that she managed to stay in her Queen mode.

Even though Mikado of all people shouldn't be relieved at this.

At the same time, Kisa approached Mikado, whispering into his ear as she passed him.

"Fourth period, gym hall shed. I'll be waiting."

In the middle of PE. As the classmates were watching an ongoing match on the outdoor ground, Mikado secretly snuck away. With the keeper in the corner of his eye, he moved along behind the batter's box. After checking that nobody had his eye on him, he entered the storage shed.

The atmosphere was drenched in age and dust in the air. Concrete floor, rope for tug of war, as well as other tools you would need during gym class, making you feel like this was a forbidden place to enter.

The Kitamikado Family would always act sober and honest, This was the first time Mikado had been slacking off during class. With the voices he heard from the outside, he was assaulted by a feeling of guilt. That being said, having been called out by Kisa of all people, he could not ignore it. It must be something very important, no doubt. It might be related to Mikado having been tailed this morning. On top of that, he had to eventually finish this love game, so he had to break this rule just this once.

Then, Mikado heard footsteps, as they stopped in front of the storage shed.

"Mikado...are you there?"

"Yeah."

After a short confirmation, the door slowly opened.

—Will it be a blowing dart...or even a stun gun...

Mikado took his distance from the entrance, preparing himself for whatever attack might come at him. No doubting it, Kisa would try to immobilize Mikado immediately.

Said Kisa slowly entered through the gap of the door—only to jump right into Mikado's arms.

“Wha...?!”

Immediately, he was assaulted by a soft sensation hitting his chest. With Kisa only wearing a short-sleeve t-shirt, and short pants, he could feel her skin almost directly. For a short moment, his body temperature shot up, as Mikado was left in confusion. Even though he knew he should separate, given the danger of possible close-range attacks, he couldn't. The scent coming from the girl's beauty hair glued the two together.



“What...are you doing...” Mikado forced out a husky voice.

Kisa separated her body, glancing up at him with a teasing gaze.

“Didn’t you call me to storage sheds before, during our middle school days? What were you thinking by then?”

“That’s...” Mikado didn’t know what to say.

He couldn't tell her that he genuinely wanted to meet her. Then again, maybe Kisa had already caught on to this. Did she have the same goal with this meeting? Mikado was shaken between confusion and expectation.

"I totally thought you were going to talk about the tailing this morning."

"Tailing?" Kisa blinked at him.

"You had us followed by your subordinates, right? I can't think of anything else."

"Why would I have to tail you? Wasn't Kawaraya-san?" Kisa spoke, as she locked the storage shed door.

"No, she wouldn't tail me with a car. She'd probably hide inside the trunk, or something similar."

"That's even worse!"

"True, but that's how it is."

Kokage was more of a solo player. Mikado had never seen someone from the Kokage Family tail someone else. Then, who was it who tailed him, and for what reason.

"...Who cares about that right now."

Kisa once again rested her body against Mikado, her slender arms wrapping around his back. She buried her face in his chest, taking a deep breath.

"You suddenly have the scent of an adult, Mikado. How cheeky...But, I don't dislike it."

"H-Hey..." Mikado immediately felt his heartbeat accelerate heavily.

"Do you...hate this sort of thing...?"

"I...don't...but..."

It was too bold, leaving Mikado helpless. Was this an attack in the love game? Or was this what she wished for herself? Mikado didn't know, but before he could arrive at a conclusion, he embraced Kisa himself. As he put his hand gently on her head, Kisa's shoulders shook ever so slightly. Repeating this process, she started snuggling up to Mikado even further, almost like a cat.

"You like being pat on the head...?"

"Mm...I like it..."

Inside the secluded, locked-off storage shed, the only thing that could be heard was their separate breathing. Kisa brought her body to Mikado, entangling her thighs with his legs. From the outside, you could hear the victorious screams of a team that just managed to score a goal. Yet, these sounds were awfully distant to Mikado. The sensation of Kisa's skin on his, her limbs overflowing with youth, it sucked up all of his attention.

Although he hadn't been confessed to, Mikado was aware of Kisa's affection for him. At the same time, so was Kisa of Mikado's affection for him. Even the guilt of sneaking away from class had all been blown away by enjoying his time with Kisa.

After they had tasted each other's body for quite some time, they separated. The warmth inside their bodies that had built during this time hadn't left, as Mikado felt a bit of sweat run down his cheek. Kisa took a step back on wobbly feet, supporting herself with a nearby hurdle to put her arm on.

"J-Just now...we were just hugging each other, no deeper meaning to it!"

"R-Right! There was nothing special about that!"

The two made up excuses like they had been accused of a crime. If there was no deeper meaning to it, then what was the reason for it? The two realized that, as the atmosphere grew awkward.

Mikado leaned his back against the wall, as Kisa followed suit, right next to him. Her cheeks were colored in a deep red, and seeing the

lonely gaze of hers, Mikado had to suppress the urge of embracing her again. He wanted to know more about Kisa. That being said, giving in to this desire here would mark his defeat.

Kisa started fidgeting with her fingers.

“Um...Mikado? What are you doing this noon...?”

“Noon? Eating lunch, for starters.”

“I know that! I’m asking where you’re eating it...like, on the rooftop...you know?” Kisa had trouble bringing out the words she wanted to say.

“...You want to eat lunch, just the two of us?”

Kisa slowly nodded to Mikado’s question. Mikado wasn’t as unsophisticated to just attack her with a ‘Isn’t this a show of affection?’. Rather than caring about the game, he wanted to spend more time with Kisa.

“I don’t mind, but...I think it’s going to be pretty difficult for the two of us to remain unspotted.

If they went to the cafeteria, Mizuki and the others would spot them immediately.

“No need to worry about that. I will take good care of them...fufufu.”

“I’m even more worried now!”

“That makes sense, I have to properly explain it after all. In short, I will take responsibility, and have them suddenly vanish into nothingness!”

“Yeah, you better take responsibility.”

Kisa shrugged.

“It’s fine, they won’t die. All of the students will just suddenly vanish, nothing more.”

“That’s almost like an unnatural phenomenon.”

“It isn’t. I will make them disappear with the power of science!”

“Don’t misuse the innocent laws of science for your misdeeds...”

Mikado didn’t even want to imagine what she was planning. At the same time, he yet again realized that he couldn’t leave Kisa unsupervised. In order to protect the peace at the school, as well as the future of Japan.

“I’ll do something about the location. Leave it to me.”

“Okay, I will do that.” Kisa smiled.

Seeing this, Mikado once again grew nervous, but for a different reason. Knowing that the person he loved trusted him this much, he felt happy.

“Also, I’d like to visit the cat cafe again...in the near future.”

“You took a liking to the cats?”

“Not at all. Seeing you spoil them just made me angry.”

“Again with that...”

“But, I don’t hate spending time there. I like seeing your cowardly expression.”

“I don’t think I looked that much like a coward...But, sure, let’s go.”

It was your average, sweet student time. If possible, Mikado wished for this time to continue forever. And, once the conclusion of the love game would arrive, that wish of his would be granted.

Then, some ringing sound came from Kisa’s pants.

“Hm? What?”

“An incoming call from the communication device. It’s to allow me to take a call even when I can’t use my smartphone. It would be just in the way if I wanted to shoot Mikado.”

“Don’t just shoot other people.”

“Understood, I’ll warn you beforehand.”

“That doesn’t make it any better!”

Kisa took out the device from her pants. The lamp on its body was blinking with a red color. She put on the switch, and responded.

“What happened? I’d rather not be bothered right now.”

What came from the device was the commander of the private squad of Kisa, Sigma.

「A word from Sai-sama. You are to hurry back to the residence right away. She has something important to talk about」

“I won’t. I’m busy right now, and I planned on eating lunch with Mikado later. After that, we’ll visit the shopping district.”

「You sex-craved maniac! Don’t go acting like a normal girl now! I know that you’re going crazy about this shitty Kitamikado brat, but —」

“Waaaah?! Sigma?!”

Kisa frantically covered the device with both her palms. With this, Sigma seemed to have grasped the situation.

「Ah...Um...is that shitty Kitamikado brat with you right now?」

“He sure is!”

「I thought it sounded awfully muffled...Are you in a secret meeting with him?」

“I-It’s not a secret meeting! We just snuck away from class to meet!”

Naturally, this was the perfect example of a secret meeting.

「Sorry! I didn’t think you’d have that much courage in you, and I didn’t expect to reach you right before the act!」

“We’re not right before the act!”

「 In the middle?! 」

“Not in the middle either!”

「 So you already did...how much you’ve grown, Kisa-sama... 」

“I see you’ve decided to throw away your life...” Kisa’s face was burning beet red, barely holding herself back from squashing the device in her fingers.

Even Mikado felt embarrassed, just listening to it on the side.

「 Anyway...I feel bad for interrupting you, but it’s a direct order from Sai-sama. A helicopter is heading your way, so get on it and come home 」

“But...” Kisa looked up at Mikado.

She looked scared like a puppy, about to be left behind.

“It’s fine. We can meet up again.”

“R-Right...Yeah. Then, I’ll be right back.”

The sound of the helicopter approaching them resounded in Mikado’s ears, and Kisa reluctantly stepped out of the storage shed.

Having arrived home, Kisa immediately made her way to the office of the family’s head, Sai. In the Nanjou Family, Sai was the upper echelon, the one giving the orders. Even if you were her grandchild, she would not refrain from making you suffer. Especially with the situation between her and Mikado getting iffy, she’d rather not take any risks.

“Grandmother, it’s Kisa.”

Kisa knocked on the door, announcing her arrival. After waiting for a short while, no response came, so Kisa decided to check inside. Sai was not present. Though this might make it seem like the family head’s room was unguarded, there were countless monitors around,

monitoring it 24/7, saving data on the people who entered, even recording vital signs. If you acted carelessly, it would come back to haunt you.

Knowing this fully well, Kisa sat down on the only chair allowed for a visitor to use, calmly waiting for the head to arrive. Back when she had been younger, she would play around in the room like Mizuki still would, but now things were different. The seat of the family's head was luxurious, equipped with comfortable-looking leather, whereas the seat for the visitor was cold, and iron. Sharing glares with the tiger stuffing at the wall, it felt like you were called by the demon of the demon world.

—Grandmother sure is late...

Out of boredom, Kisa looked around. Several expensive-looking sculptures filled the room, together with giant pictures. The bookshelves were stuffed with documents, as Kisa spotted something in between. Most likely a document out of place.

—What is this?

Kisa couldn't help but become interested. It gave her no reason to, yet her chest urged her to. A sixth sense was telling her to confirm it for herself. That being said, that could be a trap as well. Inside the stuffing of the tiger, in its eyes more accurately, were hidden cameras, observing the inside of the room. The surveillance room was located beneath the residence, and nobody knew who was even acting as the observer. That being said, Kisa had received some information from Kokage. Knowing about the Nanjou Family's security even, the research skill of Kokage couldn't be underestimated. She had to make sure to eventually get her as a member soon.

As Kisa slightly turned the tips of her fingers, she observed the eye sockets of the stuffed tiger. Having caught the woman that took care of the security in this room, this acted as the sign to 'Remove their vision'. Together with a quiet electronic sound, the eyeballs moved, away from Kisa. So that the change in vitals of Kisa couldn't be perceived, she jumped up on the nearby desk, as the floor was filled with touch sensors, tailing the path of the visitor. Following that, she

moved over to the nearby miniature table.

Sitting on there, she took off her shoes and tights, moving towards the bookshelf with her bare legs, grabbing the paper in between her toes, carefully pulling it towards her. She was a bit worried because of the alarm sensors on the bookshelves, but sadly none of that started ringing. That allowed Kisa to check what this piece of paper was about.



It was an old picture that had lost color already. Observing the boy and girl in this picture, Kisa almost let out a voice of surprise.

—Mikado and I?! Why would Grandmother have something like that?!

The two were cuddling intimately. Behind them was a clock tower made out of bricks. Mikado and Kisa had their shoulders against the

other, as Kisa even clung to his arm in bliss. It was a wonderful scenery, and yet something was off.

Kisa had no memory of ever visiting this place. The two in the picture looked a bit older than Kisa and Mikado were as well, and the clothes they wore were a bit outdated from today's fashion.

—Who...are these two? Why do they look exactly like Mikado and I...?

Kisa's hand, holding the picture, shook. She felt a sense of discomfort, as an urge started to dwell up inside her body, telling her to find out what this picture was about right away. Kisa took out her smartphone, directing the camera at the picture. If possible, she would have conducted a proper scan, but this was no time to take choices. She had to save this data as quickly as possible to analyze it later.

Then, footsteps approached the room.

—Grandmother!

Kisa quickly pushed the picture back between the books. She kicked off the bookshelf, to fly over the desk, landing on the chair.

“What are you doing? I heard some awfully loud sound from here.”

Having barely entered the room, Sai immediately spoke to Kisa.

“...There was just a small insect.” Kisa returned with a calm expression.

Her heart was beating like crazy in comparison to her straight face. She had put on her shoes on her bare feet, hiding the tights inside her hand.

“Rather than that, what did you call me here for? Forcing me to come home from school early.”

“The numerical five are coming over. They want to question you—about the case with the young Kitamikado kid.” Sai narrowed her eyes.

The Nanjou Family's numerical five.

Though only acting as branches of the Nanjou Family, they are still direct descendants, and together with the five big families that were reigned by the five heads, the Nanjou Clan existed as a whole. Each governed one factor of the Nanjou main family's resources, such as finances, circulation, manufacturing, research, and human affairs, thus holding exceptional influence in the family. Naturally, though they spoke of finances and research, they were not the normal type that could be revealed openly. All of this happened in the underground scene of Japan, governed by these.

And now, they were waiting for Kisa's arrival. They were all schooled elders, having made it through the various battlefields life had thrown at them. If they moved but a single finger, one's entire existence would be erased. And now, each and every single one of them glared at Kisa with a cold expression.

"...Kisa-sama, what exactly is this about?"

One of the five spoke up with a deep voice.

"What exactly might you be referring to?" Kisa returned the question.

Inside, she started sweating buckets, but she could not allow them to see through this. Although she was a direct descendant in the family, underestimating the numerical five would even be dangerous for her.

"Don't play dumb. A nonsensical video had been sent to all of our residences. Judging from this video, Kisa-sama, and the young boy of the Kitamikado Family seem to be going out."

"...?!" Kisa's body froze up entirely.

It was the same footage that was sent to Mikado's and Kisa's phones before. Thinking about it, they had just assumed that only the two had received this footage.

"I have no idea what kind of video this is...but you just take it as pure gold? Have you never heard of artificially created videos?"

"We already checked that it hasn't been altered in any way. Your

excuses won't work.”

The numerical five all looked at Kisa in scorn. Kisa was still confused about the reason as to why she, Mikado, and even the numerical five had been sent this footage. However, there was a high chance that it wasn't good-will. Rather, to break the current situation apart, breaking them in between. Someone from the Nanjou Family who held grudges, or another unrelated group that wished to create favors by the Nanjou clan. Maybe it even was someone from the numerical five, seeking to gain more influence by overthrowing Kisa.

Kisa ran her gaze over the faces of the people present, but as expected, nothing came to light. Even these old folks showed no opening whatsoever.

“Loving one another with the Kitamikado Family's successor! Are you even aware of your role, Kisa-sam?!”

“W-We're not loving each other! Not in the slightest, no!” Kisa tried to throw in a rebuttal, but her cheeks were already burning red.

“It's not just the video! According to the information we dug up, you had already kissed the successor of the Kitamikado Family...?”

“It was only on the forehead!”

“Forehead...?”

“Ah...”

Out of embarrassment, Kisa wasn't able to keep her mouth shut. Kisa was already weak when it came to talking about love, but being put in front of people like this, it came naturally that she would lose her mind. The numerical five all sighed in unison.

“We knew that you had been in direct contact with this boy for a while now, but we thought that was mere child's play.”

“A while...since when?”

“Around ten years ago. Did you think nobody saw you as snuck away from the parties?”

“Ugh...” Kisa faltered.

Then, the times they were playing chess, or chatted in the secret storage sheds, they had all been found out.

“That being said, from how we saw it, you had fallen head over heels for the lad.”

“I didn’t fall for him—!!!!” Kisa screamed in rebuttal.

The numerical five saw this, and turned to Sai.

“In order to preserve the future of the Nanjou Family, we cannot turn a blind eye to this. So that we can minimize her contact with the young Kitamikado lad, I advise that we have Kisa-sama locked inside the residence.”

Kisa slammed her hands on the table, jumping up.

“Huh?! You’re going to lock me up?! Are you even aware of what you are doing?! If you turn me into your enemy, you won’t have a future in the Nanjou Family you want to protect! Additionally, there is no way Grandmother would—”

“This time around, it can’t be helped.”

“Grandmother?!”

Sai nodded, leaving Kisa in disarray.

“I told you. I didn’t mind pulling the game in order to overthrow the Kitamikado Family, but you could not fall for him under any costs.”

“T-That is true, but...I didn’t fall for him! I’m just slightly interested...H-He...Mikado loves me...” Kisa stuttered, trying to make a point.

“You don’t even know yourself...You’ve already become the brat’s woman.”

“Mikado’s...woman...”

These words reverberated inside Kisa's head, as her cheeks burned up, spacing out. Kisa knew just how much she had fallen for Mikado. If not, she hadn't even started the love game in the first place. She wanted Mikado badly, she couldn't help it. She was ready to use whatever method she wanted. Sai rang the bell on her desk.

"For now, go cool your head inside the residence. Let's see, if you say here for maybe ten years, you'll forget about that brat, and become a proper Empress of Darkness."

"Ten years?!"

If she were to stay away from Mikado for such a long time, he would be taken by another girl. Even more than that, she wouldn't be able bear being apart from Mikado for such a long time.

Kisa tried to escape from the meeting room, but the private squad of the Nanjou Family had already arrived to cut off her escape route. She tried fighting her way through with the weapon from her skirt, but was overwhelmed by the anesthesia bullets, pressed on the ground. Almost as if to calm a wild beast, they pressed the needle with sedative into her neck.

"You...all...I remember your faces...I will definitely...kill you all..."

As Kisa spit curses, Sai looked down at her in disgust.

"Naturally, I'll have them escape out of your reach before you rise to power. If not, nobody would have dared to oppose you."

"I won't allow you...to escape...You will pay for getting between Mikado and I..."

"Yeah yeah. I have to deal with that brat as well. Can't have him go between my plans anymore."

Hearing these words, Kisa felt like her entrails were ripped straight out of her stomach.

"W-Wait...Grandmother...not Mikado..." Kisa tried grabbing hold of Sai's leg, but unable to keep her consciousness from fading away.

With the french-feel carpet on the ground, an elegant bed had been equipped inside the western-styled room. Elegant golden carvings on the side of the bed, with velvet bedding. Even the chest and dresser were high class, worthy of the Princess of Darkness. That being said, Kisa's wrists were restrained with chains, connected to the bed. Because she tried to break free forcefully, red wounds and circles were shown around that area.

Ever single weapon she had hid had been confiscated, as well as cutting off any possible communication with the outside world. On top of that, the heavy iron door was locked from the outside. Surveillance cameras had been set up on the ceiling, guards positioned across the door.

The head of the family was erious. Every single measure had been taken to not allow Kisa any means of escaping. This was like a room for locking up criminals during the Edo period. Left with no means of resisting, Kisa laid sideways on the bed, blood dripping from her fist.

“Just...when I finally found out...”

Mikado felt the same way she did. Just a bit more, and they both could have been happy, but now another giant wall appeared between them. She knew that her wish wouldn't be granted this easily. That the Kitamikado and Nanjou families were rivals since old. As long as this country would exist, their fight would continue. Met with this reality in front of her, Kisa felt the strength in her body vanish.

“Mikado...”

She wanted to see him. She wanted to vent out all her frustration, and burst out in tears in his arms. She wanted to venture off to a world where the rules of their families didn't exist. In order to escape from this reality that would not even grant that, she closed her eyes, reminiscing about the time she spent with Mikado. How they were playing chess in their secret meetings, laughing heartily like children should. Back then, Kisa still did not have to accept her fate.

“We're not going to play chess today?”

A secret hotel room, rented right above the party hall, Mikado sat across Kisa with a glass table between them, as he asked her. At the time, the two were barely 8 years old, only able to meet in secret at parties like this, enjoying the time without their families pressing against their backs. Kisa pouted, as she sat on the sofa.

"I can't. My wrist and fingers hurt, I can't help it." She showed him her bandaged hand.

Her entire hand was covered, making her look like a mummy. Apparently, even the special medicine developed by a research lab under the wing of her family, the wound wouldn't heal that easily.

"That looks awful...what happened?"

"They're making me practice my shooting as of late. They said that as the successor of the family, I had to be able to defeat my enemies quickly."

Mikado felt similar.

"I see...Recently, they keep telling me that 'You have to be able to defeat a buffalo with your bare hands', so they're making me split rocks with my fists...Thanks to that, my hand is tingling everytime I take a bath."

"It's only tingling?! Normally, you'd break your hand if you tried that!"

"'Suffering wounds in front of the enemy makes you a failure. No broken bones allowed', said my father, so I won't."

"Even if they didn't allow it, I doubt it can't be helped in that..."

That being said, Kisa had already given up on trying to argue with the Kitamikado Family. Their principles made no sense whatsoever. And on top of that, Mikado would always defeat this challenge as well. Kisa could only sigh.

"Anyway, I'm not a monster like that, and because of the practice, I suffered from tenosynovitis, so I can't even carry my bag."

“Sounds tough...Can you go to school with a servant helping you?”

“Yes. It’s a lot of pain. That’s why, help me drink my tea.”

Kisa leaned over the table, shoving her face towards Mikado. The cup of black tea standing on the table still hadn’t cooled much.

Mikado felt his ears turn red at Kisa’s request.

“That should be doable, right...”

“Ahh, it hurts...My hand hurts so much~”

Kisa flapped her legs up and down, acting awfully. She would always enjoy seeing Mikado panic. Though he didn’t feel love towards her at that time, and he wasn’t conscious of her as a girl either, he still had a tickling feeling inside his chest.

“Can’t help it.”

“Ah, put milk and sugar in there, okay~”

“Yeah yeah.”

Mikado gave a half-hearted response, as he poured some milk into the tea. Dropping seven blocks of sugar in as well, he stirred it with a spoon. White blocks sunk deep into the green water. Getting excited knowing that Mikado was preparing this for her, Kisa watched this process enticed.

“Keep still, okay.”

“Mm.”

Mikado picked up the cup, carefully putting it to Kisa’s lips, making sure that he wouldn’t pour it anywhere else. Kisa felt her heart beat faster at this thrill, thoroughly tasting the tea. It felt like she had turned into Mikado’s pet, being fed milk. It was warm, and sweet about to melt.

“You got some on your mouth.

“Fuwah...”

Mikado put down the cup, and ran his finger along the corner of her mouth.

“I-I’m fine now. Thank you...”

Kisa fell backwards onto the sofa, burying her face in a pillow. Though she didn’t know if it was because of the warm tea hitting it, or because Mikado’s finger felt hot, the side of her lips gave off a tingly sensation. Running her own fingers along there, they grew warm all the same.

“...I don’t want to practice shooting anymore. I don’t want to kill other people.” Kisa muttered.

For some reason, she could easily tell her enemy, Mikado, about those true feelings of hers.

“To think the successor of the Nanjou Family would be saying that.”

“I wasn’t born into this family because I wanted to. I wish I could have been born into a normal family...But, Grandmother said that I would take over the line...”

“But...what about your parents...?”

Mikado most likely wanted to ask if they had passed away. But, Kisa just snorted in arrogance.

“They’re alive. Just incompetent.”

“Should you really talk about your parents like that?”

“I can’t help it if they’re like that. They’re cowards, their lies are easy to see through, and they are looked down upon by their subordinates. Since Grandmother judged them to be not fit as the successors, they were sent to the rural landside to govern a small organization.”

“Sounds sad...”

“...Yup.”

Mikado really understands her. The family head Sai showed no restraint against Kisa and her lessons to become the successor, her parents were seeing her in a hostile light, not even trying to understand her. On top of that, all the people in the family and residence where she lived, they saw her as a superhuman being. Mikado was the only one who saw her as a normal girl, joining her point of view.

“I...want to run away. I don’t want to inherit this darkness.” Kisa sighed, as if to curse herself.

“...There might be...a beautiful darkness as well.”

“Eh.” Kisa slightly raised up her body.

“I don’t know if I should be the one to say this, belonging to the Kitamikado Family and all, but...many things nowadays can’t be taken care of by glossing it over. There are lots of things you can only do in darkness.”

“Things you can only do...in darkness...” Kisa repeated his words in a daze.

“Right. I protect the world in the shine of the sun at noon, while you protect the world at night. The Kitamikado Family will protect the world on the outside, while you protect the back. Isn’t that the real duty we have been given? If it’s you, if it’s the two of us, we can make Japan into an even better country.”

“Me...and you...So we’re playing a game of chess, fighting against a giant enemy together.”

“Yeah.”

Just by thinking about it, Kisa grew excited. There was no need to work hard on her own anymore. When she took ten steps south, Mikado took ten north¹. Even if they were enemies on the outside, their feelings were one.

Kisa fixed her posture on the sofa, proudly declaring.

“Alright! I’ll become the bad guy then!”

“Nobody said anything about that...” Mikado was confused.

“I will. The greatest evil that will have you even shake in your shoes. And then, we’ll be able to play chess forever and ever. As we fight in this world’s light and darkness.”

The eight-year old Kisa blushed furiously, as she tightly shook Mikado’s hand.



After that, Kisa accepted her fate and duty, taking in as much practice and study as possible. As she got into it, using weapons and learning about them was unexpectedly interesting, and she understood that she was fit for it. Especially with the Nanjou Family, with the weapons they use, preferring judgment over physical ability, it felt like a strategic game.

“You’re a million years too early to oppose me!”

“Eeeek?!”

The bullet shot by Kisa’s gun set the gun of the boss trader flying off...Naturally that wasn’t the final touch, as she crushed his entire hand at the same time as a punishment. The same counted as their allies, as sprays of blood shot into the air.

This was a scenery for the 12-year old Kisa, during the winter, as she stood in a wide open storage shed at a port. Large containers around her, new-type submachine guns being stolen out of those. As Kisa stormed inside, one of these containers got ruined because of the impact. Not just the containers, the guards at the entrance, they were all suffering from the impact, coughing up blood as they collapsed.

Kisa pressed the muzzle of the gun onto the back of the leader’s head.

“Now, I’m willing to hear your excuses. Where were you planning on shipping this? Weren’t you informed that all future gun traffic will now go through the Nanjou Family?”

“E-Even if you say that, I can’t correspond quickly enough. We’ve worked alone for a long time, and we have to be careful that the divisions under us don’t steal our profits, so...”

“No excuses!”

“You just said you’d hear me out thoughyaaaa?!”

Kisa stepped on the head of the leader with the sole of her shoe, as his nose was pressed against the ground. With blood dripping down from his nose, the leader screamed.

“P-Please! Forgive me! I will not go against your orders a second time, Kisa-sama! I will give you half of the profit! So please, at least spare my life!”

“We didn’t expect any high payment from this in the first place. All I said was to use the Nanjou Family’s trading system in the future. Pay the normal use fee, that’s all.”

“Everyone couldn’t believe that this was all. How would you profit from this, they wondered.”

“I see...”

—That’s where the wind blew from, huh.

In order to lower any possible rebellion of the arms dealers, she tried giving them conditions that didn’t put much bother on them, but it didn’t take root quickly enough. Kisa wondered as to why that happened, but in the end, it was probably because the people living in the world of shadows most likely reacted more negative and wary to good-will than to oppression. That being said, she couldn’t tell them of her real goal.

By regulating the arms dealing system under the Nanjou Family, she could control the flow of weapons, creating less possible victims in the normal society, standing in the light that Mikado would control. If she were to speak of her plans, she would be regarded as crazy. That’s why she had to cover it up somehow.

“...This is an experiment.”

“Experiment...?”

“Yes. An experiment to control circulation in Japan...No, the economy as a whole. This is just fodder for the AI planning we’re working on.”

“H-How could this happen...The Nanjou Family’s fearful politics are going to swallow up Japan...”

Kisa slammed the head of the leader on the ground, rendering him completely useless. The other ruffians around were watching this scene in fear, unable to move an inch. Suddenly, a young girl jumped between the scene of terror, like a small rabbit traversing the green forest.

“Onee-chan, you’re so cool!”

Nanjou Mizuki, currently nine years old. Her mental age wasn’t that far off from what it is right now.

“Mizuki! Since when were you around?! I told you not to follow me on my work!”

“I didn’t follow you! I came here with you!”

“The second I didn’t realize you were around, you didn’t exactly ‘Come with me!’”

“Then I came here clinging to you!”

“Scary!”

Mizuki looked up at Kisa, her eyes sparkling in admiration.

“You went bang bang bang and defeated all of them, almost like Mephisto from Evil Mayfly! That must have been a 20-hit combo! I can already see the two million points high score!”

“I have no idea what you’re trying to tell me...But, I guess you’re right, I am a genius after all!”

“Onee-chan is a genius! A super assassin! You threw away your femininity!”

“You’re not praising me at all, are you?!”

“Kyaaa, I’ll be killed by Onee-chan!” Mizuki jumped up in joy, like a small puppy getting attention from its owner.

To be completely honest, Kisa wasn’t that much of a genius at all. Because she had Mikado she could work towards, wanting to stand on evil grounds, she worked hard to develop these skills. And, as time passed, she started to feel comfortable standing in places like these. She felt the blood of the Empress of Darkness inside of her.

—The Nanjou Family and Kitamikado Family cannot stand on equal grounds.

She understood that. She knew that Mikado had a fiance called Rinka, even back then. Back when she heard about this, she hoped it to be a lie, as she felt like her chest was stabbed with a knife. Yet, Kisa told herself that the bounds Mikado and her shared were much greater than with any fake wife like that. She accepted this fact, and worked more.

She should have accepted this, and yet.

“Eh.....That’s a lie, right...”

When she became a high school student, Kisa received information from Sigma, about to let her phone drop in shock. She lost strength in her knees, as she sunk to the ground.

「It’s not a lie. The marriage talks between the two families have started to get serious. They apparently want to finish the details next year, as they’re in the middle of exchanging conditions and such」

“.....”

Kisa grit her teeth. It hurt. Her heart was about to burst from the pain. She should have known that, the two being fiances, things would eventually end up like that...But, it was still unbearable. Her chest was tightening up enough for her to find trouble breathing.

「Kisa-sama? What happened?」

Sigma’s voice over the phone sounded so distant, as her sense of reality was crumbling down.

“I see...I was wrong this entire time...”

Bearing the pain, Kisa finally spoke of her true feelings. She didn’t want to see the same future as Mikado. She wanted to see that future together with him. She wanted to create this future together with him.

But, at this rate, everything would vanish. Having been stained in the darkness of the Nanjou Family, Kisa would become Mikado’s enemy, whereas Rinka would act as the support for Mikado.

That world was not allowed to happen. It was unforgivable.

That’s why Kisa transferred to Sousei Academy, and set up the love game with Mikado. Even if she had to rob him off his future,as long as the two could stay together.

Yet, looking at her current situation, enchained on the bed, Kisa

realized that this all had been in vain. Her feelings for Mikado had been found out by the head of the family, as well as the numerical five, prohibiting her to continue the love game. Naturally, looking at the risks, that decision came as explainable.

Not to mention that now even Mikado was in danger. Now that Sai had decided to move, she would not stop until all adversaries were out cold. Yet, Kisa was forced to accept this reality, unable to tell Mikado of the impending danger.

“Mikado...Mikado...” Kisa buried her face, into the sheets, wailing.

Then and there, she heard the sound of the door opening. Kisa twitched. Dinner time was still far off, and they would be using the small entrance for the food, instead of the door. But then, why? To question her? Maybe she would be taken somewhere. To ensure that she would never be able to see Mikado again. No matter who it was, if she was sedated again, she couldn't even resist. So Kisa picked up the blanket near to her, covering her body with it. If it was someone from the family's private squad, she could try overwhelming them, and escape, but all she had around her was a spoon.

The one who appeared in front of her was Mizuki.

“Yaho~ Onee-chan, you doing fine?”

She slowly made her way towards Kisa, waving with no problem in the world.

“As if I was...What about the guards outside?”

“Ehhh? I had them eat lunch~ You know, I'm pretty close with them. If I ask them, they'll listen to my requests~” Mizuki put one finger on her cheek, tilting her head with a smile.

Kisa once again realized that she couldn't let down her guard against her. Mizuki managed to manipulate the private squad of the family, that even Kisa with equal influence to the head of the family couldn't manage. She might have already overthrown Kisa in the shadows, controlling Sigma as well. All of this might have just been set up by this very Mizuki, who continued to approach Kisa with a carefree

expression.

“Oh? Onee-chan, you were crying?”

“.....”

“It’s been so long since I saw you cry! That’s like super rare! SSR!” Mizuki swiftly took a picture. But, seeing that Kisa didn’t utter a word, she quickly stopped.

“Woah...Onee-chan is not saying anything...Kya?!”

Right as Mizuki was about to sit on the rim of the bed, Kisa used that opening to jump at her like a wild beast, pushing Mizuki down. She tightly grasped both her hands, sitting on her. Mizuki’s smartphone fell off to the side of the bed.

“Onee-chan...? I’m not sure about two girls doing such a thing...”

“Stop fooling around.”

Kisa brought her face closer, glaring down at Mizuki, as a deep, resentful voice came out of her mouth.

“You did it, right. Sending Mikado and me that footage, as well as the numerical five, and the reason Grandmother moved. Everything, all of it, because you couldn’t take my relationship with Mikado, to steal everything from me. The person I love the most, my family, my life.” Kisa spit cold words at Mizuki, as she put both her hands around her neck. “I won’t forgive you...Not for stealing away Mikado...I just wanted to become happy with the person I love...You could have taken the family for all I care...so why couldn’t leave me alone...”

It was a curse. Not just towards Mizuki herself, but towards the fate that forced the two to be born into such a situation, and towards the unreasonability of this world. Yet, towards her older sister, wailing in tears as she was about to be killed by her, Mizuki—

“It’s fine, Onee-chan.”

Whispering these words, she embraced Kisa’s body.

“W-What...” Kisa was bewildered.

“I wouldn’t do something like that. I don’t know who did it, but I’d take a more interesting approach. Not a method that would make you suffer like this.”

“I don’t...believe you...Only you would have a merit from doing this...”

“I keep telling you. It’s true that I like Mikado-kun, but I love you just as much, Onee-chan.” Mizuki gently put her hand on Kisa’s head.

“.....!”



With that soft sensation, Kisa felt like something was cut inside of her. The feeling of guilt for blaming her little sister didn't stop. Being spoiled, and allowed to cry to her heart's content, just being in her arms was unbelievably comforting. In order to become the darkness that Mikado needed, Kisa had lost her pure soul, yet always kept by Mizuki, her little sister. Mizuki had stayed like Kisa had been.

"I see, so rather than inheriting the family, Mikado-kun is more

important~”

“I-Is there something wrong with that?”

“Nope, not at all! That’s what’s cute about Onee-chan!”

“Ugh...”

Having her cheek poked at by the teasing Mizuki, even Kisa felt embarrassed. That being said, she still had her pride as an older sister. Having lost her poisonous thinking, Kisa separated from Mizuki, who put one hand in her pocket.

“Tada~! Guess what this is~”

It showed a metallic radiance.

“A key...?”

“Correct~!”

Mizuki nodded with a beaming smile, as she removed the shackles from Kisa’s wrists. Even though Kisa had just regained her freedom, she was blinking at Mizuki in surprise.

“How did you even get the key...?”

“I asked the guards! Saying that I felt bad for you!”

“That easily...?”

“We’re friends after all! And, here’s your cash card. I thought you’d need some money when you’re on the run, so I prepared a bit!”
Mizuki put the card into Kisa’s hand.

“How did you get into my room?!”

“The cleaning lady is my friend as well. I told her I wanted to play around in your room, so she let me in~”

“What about the lock on the safe...” Kisa shuddered with the card in hand.

Not only her card and money in general, other important things were supposed to stay hidden in that safe.

“I figured the number would probably be Mikado-kun’s birthday, and that’s what it was~” Mizuki narrowed her eyes, grinning.

“T-There’s no deeper meaning to it! Nobody would imagine that the successor of the Nanjou Family would make her password the birthday of the Kitamikado Family’s successor, so I assumed that was the safest!”

“Yes yes, let’s just leave it at that~ I guess that the love letter towards Mikado-kun inside had no deeper meaning either then. You wrote it, but were unable to hand it to him, right?”

“Erase that from your memory right away!!!”

Kisa jumped at Mizuki, who swiftly dodged. Unable to bear the embarrassment, Kisa wanted to strangle her little sister again. No matter how far she went, she was just like the younger Kisa. However, Kisa was unable to finish off Mizuki, giving up. She fixed her clothes, wiped away the blood on her wrists, and stuffed the card into her pocket. Feeling slightly awkward, she looked over at Mizuki.

“Then...um...”

“Yup, have a safe trip. You were the first to fall in love with Mikado-kun, so I’ll give you his first kiss~”

“Fuha?! I-It’s not like I...” Kisa waved with her hands.

Mizuki brought her face closer to Kisa, showing a teasing smile.

“Ohh? So you don’t want that? Guess I’ll take it then~?”

“I-It’s not like I don’t want it...I...do...” Kisa tried to suppress her face from blushing furiously, muttering in a quiet voice.

She tried her hardest to get out the words, yet Mizuki only saw this as a chance to tease her even more.

“Huh? I can’t hear you~”

“Mikado’s first kiss belongs to me!” Kisa screamed at the top of her lungs.

Because the positions were mostly reversed, Kisa felt frustrated at this situation. That being said, she couldn’t stay angry at Mizuki, as she was the one who saved her.

“...What do I need to repay you for this...” Kisa asked hesitatingly.

“Since I can’t have his first kiss, I want to take Mikado’s virginity instead~!”

“T-That’s...”

The difference in value was too great.

“It’s fine, I’m not asking to do it right in front of you. I just want you to keep me alive and don’t kill me in case it comes to that~”

“Ugh...O-Okay...”

“Yay~ Love you, Onee-chan~” Mizuki embraced Kisa without restraint.

Kisa grew worried that she had gotten into debt to a highly dangerous girl.

At the same time, Mikado.

In the dead center of the town, he had to deal with an attack from a mysterious armed force. Kisa hadn’t come to school for a week now, so he was searching for information in the vicinity of the Nanjou Family’s residence. This force looked like normal citizens at first, but had clearly enough received special instructions and training. A car with lowered windows surrounded Mikado, as they shot at him the second he came in view.

Mikado swiftly ram his fist through a nearby window, picking up the fragments of the broken glass to burst the tires of the car, sending it right into a nearby shopping window, an explosion following shortly. Using the smoke as cover, Mikado ran down a back alley.

From the sky, a thick shadow flew over Mikado, creating wind pressure and a roaring sound. Looking up, a military helicopter had its machine gun directed down at him. Following that were missiles, obstructing Mikado's route.

"They sure don't hold back!"

Mikado jumped away from the impact zone, flying into a laundry shop. Keeping his body low, he evaded the incoming glass. Though fighting back was an option, but not wise. The identity of the enemy, the reason for this attack, were both unknown. Until he knew what was going on, Mikado was better off holding back. As he jumped back onto the main street, he saw a bus driving off.

Mikado hid his body in the shadows of nearby objects, entering the bus. He lowered the shade of the window, taking out his smartphone in order to request assistance. Before he could do so, he received a call of his own, coming from Kisa's number.

"Kisa? What's happening?"

Expecting that the attack originated from the Nanjou Family, he whispered quietly. However, it was not Kisa's voice that greeted him.

「Kisa-sama was caught!」

Mikado felt his intestines freeze.

"...Who is this?"

「It's Sigma. The commander of the Nanjou Family's private squad... the woman who saved you on the deserted island, remember」

"Yeah. You helped out back then."

Sigma spoke quickly.

「The head of the family managed to find out the relationship between you and Kisa-sama. It's true that our squad is attacking you, but since I was on close terms with Kisa-sama, I was left out, unable to control them. At this rate, Kisa-sam is in danger」

“What do you mean?” Mikado asked in panic.

「There's a high risk that this call is being tracked. I need to tell you in person, so come to the 2nd district, the church there. And hurry!」

“Ah, hold on—”

Mikado wasn't allowed to ask any further questions, as the call had been cut already. Mikado knew of the place Sigma spoke about. He got off the bus, and hurried there while heading from the enemies attacks.

Though it was called a ‘Church’ with its giant cross on the outside, it was actually an art museum. Used equally as a wedding hall at times, Mikado had thought of using this location for his marriage with Kisa. Luckily, it was currently in renovation, with no people inside. Mikado finished his preparations, and waited on the first floor.

Standing in this place all alone, even though he wanted to come here with Kisa, gave him an odd feeling. Almost like he had appeared at a wedding without his bride, and that he wouldn't be able to meet her anymore.

With no warning of sorts, a cost sensation hit the back of his neck.

“Game over, Prince. Your Princess will become our Queen.” Sigma's cold voice arrived at Mikado's ears.

Even without having to turn around, he could tell that the muzzle of a gun was pointed at his head.

“...Weren't you supposed to be an ally of Kisa?”

“I am. Kisa-sama's strategic knowledge, skill, and influence are remarkable. It's clear that she will become the greatest Empress to date. That's why we cannot allow her to meet you. Having her turn into a normal girl because of your seduction would go against everything we've worked for. We have to bring her back to the real Kisa-sama.”

“The real Kisa...It seems like you don't even know the real her.”

“Don’t go talking so arrogant now. Do you know?”

“Naturally. The real her didn’t want to become this Empress of Darkness at all.”

“Spitting worthless lies like that won’t...?!”

Hearing a sound come from above, Sigma gazed up in confusion. The chandelier came soaring down at fearful speed. Mikado set this up beforehand, to have it fall after a certain time limit. He had felt Sigma’s killing intent, who had hid in the shadows, and prepared this.

Though Sigma managed to avoid that impact, Mikado wouldn’t miss this chance. He snuck around Sigma’s back, restraining her arms.

“Where is Kisa.”

“W-Who knows.”

“Spit it out. I have to meet Kisa at all costs.”

Mikado lifted up Sigma by the neck, as her bones were screaming in agony. Although she had been trained under the Nanjou Family, nobody could hope to win against a fully-trained Kitamikado man.

“I’m saying I don’t know! Kisa-sama ran away!”

“Ran away...?”

“That’s right! It should have been a perfect security, but Mizuki-sama’s people betrayed us! She just went ‘Sorry, I let her escape~’, not knowing where Kisa-sama went!” Sigma spit out words in rage.

“So she was inside the Nanjou Family’s residence right before that? Until when?”

“...She had been there this morning.”

Then, there was a high chance that Kisa could still be somewhere in the city. Maybe that was the reason why the private squad kept chasing after Mikado like that, hoping to find Kisa along the way.

“I will thank you for the information. Once this case is over, I’ll treat you to some dinner. Your entire squad that is.”

Mikado took away any sort of weaponry Sigma had on her. Though she wasn’t on the level of Kisa, it was quite the formidable number, consisting of knives, grenades, and much more.

“You’re not going to kill me? If you leave me alive, I’ll definitely get in your way again.” Sigma spoke as if to provoke him.

“You are Kisa’s right hand. She’d be angry if I just killed you.”

Mikado tied up her arms and legs, putting her down on the floor, and quickly left the church. Now that this attack force assaulting him belonged to the Nanjou Family, he could not afford to call for assistance from his family. If the north and south started fighting for real, all hope of being able to stay with Kisa would forever be lost.

Running along the back alley, Mikado operated the terminal he stole from Sigma. There, the positions of all the squad members were shown, using the radar-like map. Though there was an option to call members of the squad, taking the risk to gather information now wasn’t worth it.

At the same time, some felt off as he looked at the screen. Around the shopping district, the amount of squad members was awfully low. Especially around the area of the train station, a wider space with nobody around stood out in his view.

—Is the number of squad members going down...?

It could have been a trap. That being said, the enemy shouldn’t anticipate Mikado to steal this map. Then, who was lessening their numbers? It was like a game of chess, as the pieces went down in number, inviting Mikado there with a confident snicker.

“...Kisa, huh.”

Mikado felt familiarity from this way of fighting. It perfectly overlapped with how Kisa played chess in their secluded rooms. Kisa should be able to take out these squad members, and steal one of these maps herself. Hence, if Mikado made his way to the center—

Half an hour later.

Mikado arrived at the cat cafe he and Kisa had visited before. Back when they met in the gym halls storage shed, Kisa said that she wanted to visit the cat cafe again. The reason the shopping district was empty of any squad members was most likely to make Mikado remember this fact. Just as expected, when Mikado arrived at the backside of the cafe, a single girl had been waiting there, wearing a hoodie with the hood on, a backpack on her back.

“Made you wait, huh.”

“Mikado...so you knew.”

The girl took off the hood, lifting her head. Wearing more sexy clothes most of the time to fit the mood, this kind of girlish look wasn't half bad either, and probably the first time Mikado had seen this on her.

“Naturally...But, what were you planning on doing if I didn't steal a terminal? I would have never found out.”

“I expected you to steal it. No matter in what pinch you were in, you would use everything at your disposal to create an advantage.” Kisa gazed at Mikado with trustful eyes.

With the games of chess they played, or this love game, they started to get a good grasp on what the other was thinking.

Feeling happy at this level of trust, Mikado gazed at the backpack. Just when he thought that she had stuffed all sorts of weapons in there, after taking a look at the opening, he spotted countless rolls of banknotes.

“That's quite the sum.”

“What else could I have done? I only had one chance to get as much money as I could!”

“What about putting that on an online account?”

“I didn't have the time for that! I had my fill just trying to run away

from the residence! The squad members in the city were following me, and I was betrayed by Sigma...and I wanted to see you as quickly as possible.”

Kisa’s eyelids were red.

“...You were crying.”

“.....!”

Mikado felt the desire to embrace Kisa, as she bit her lip in anguish. That being said, this wasn’t the time for it. Kisa took Mikado’s hand, looking up at him.

“Let’s run away, Mikado...Together.”

[1](#) Since this hasn’t been referenced since volume 1 or something, a quick reminder. Kitamikado’s ‘Kita’ is written with the kanji for north, whereas the ‘Nan’ of Nanjou is written as south.

Chapter 4: North and South

The old train rang its sirens, as it drove along the lines. Almost like a boat during the stormy sea, it shook side to side at times. The boxed lunch from the train station almost fell off the table, as Mikado and Kisa barely held onto it. The quality from the speaker the announcements came from was as horrible as it could get, and with the seats open across from them, it really felt like they were more outside of a dense population.

The two of them disguised themselves as more normal citizens, with Kisa the hood on, and Kisa a bowler hat, but there were no other people around them anyway, besides a few senior citizens, reading the local newspaper, or operating their own smartphones.

Kisa tightly grabbed her boxed lunch, embracing it in her arms.

“So this...is a train...It feels more primitive than I expected...What kind of energy is this running on? Firewood?”

“Since it’s a normal train, it runs on energy. Though it’s a bit different from the train I know.”

Though Mikado had rode on trains before a few times when he was invited by his friends at school, they didn’t have any boxed seats like this. Most of the passengers were standing, filling the train to the utter limit.

“Seems like fewer and fewer people are living in the rural areas. At this rate, all civilization will move to the cities...”

“Fufu, so this is how we lessen the amount of people...”

As Mikado gazed around the train interior with slight worry, Kisa instead found it intriguing. There, the train conductor arrived, wearing loose clothes.

“If I may be free, I would like to ask for your tickets.”

Mikado kindly called out to Kisa.

“If something tough happened, just tell me. I’ll help you escape.”

Kisa shook her head, her expression distorted in despair.

“It’s too late...Everything...”

“Thank you very much~”

The train conductor went on his way again. Like a god in his own reign.

“What do you mean?” Mikado felt slight despair that his good-will didn’t get through.

“It’s just like back at the story of Noa’s ark. The people won’t see the horrors coming until it’s right in front of them.” Kisa spoke with confidence.

Waiting for a while, the elderly all got off the train, leaving only Mikado and Kisa inside the quartier. For a second, it felt like they were pulled off into the realm of the dead, but soon after, a wide green scenery opened up beyond the windows. Now, nobody should be able to hear them. This was the perfect time to reconfirm future plans.

“And, what are we going to do now? Even if you say run away, we can’t exactly escape to the ends of the world.”

“If it’s with you, I wouldn’t mind living the rest of my life in the mountains somewhere.” Kisa looked up at Mikado.

“I-I see...”

Seeing Mikado flinch at her honest confession, Kisa snickered.

“But, I do have a proper plan. With this incident, everything should calm down if we take care of the Nanjou Family’s numerical five.”

“Numerical five...?”

“The big heads of our family, taking care of finances, infrastructure and whatever. Because of their influence, they got hot-headed, thinking they can go against me...But not that easily, they will pay for this.”

As if to symbolize her anger, Kisa picked up the rolled omelette from her lunch box, and split it in two, making even Mikado sympathize with the poor eggs.

“You can’t kill them.”

“I know. It’s normal infighting after all. I got some wonderful medicine that will let them become more honest.”

“Killing them was better!”

“That’s not true. As long as you’re alive, something good will definitely happen...right?”

“Don’t decorate something horrifying with nice words!”

“Being brainwashed isn’t as bad...We can all work hard to live!”
Kisa’s eyes radiated in a strong shine, as she smiled.

Mikado told Sigma that ‘Kisa doesn’t want to become an Empress of Darkness’, but he was starting to lose confidence in that.

“We’re currently heading to a mountain residence the numerical five often use...but gaining control over that could prove difficult. They have a tight security there.”

“So we’d need weapons, huh.”

“Yes. I was thinking of blowing up the entire mountain. But, the weapon needed to have the mountain erupt is at a research facility far away...”

“I’d like to ask for details concerning this weapon...But before that, wouldn’t the numerical five die if you did that?”

Kisa held her head.

“That’s right...I want them to die, but at the same time I don’t...What an unexpected maiden’s heart I possess.”

“Keep telling yourself that...”

A maiden would not possess such a thinking process in the first place.

“Well, if it’s about weapons, I might have an idea. It’s a bit of an irregular method, so keep it a secret, alright?”

“Basically, having sex!”

“As if! I got close contacts in the police force, so I might be able to get something if I ask them.”

“Basically, you’re going to have sex with old man police officer then...” Kisa’s shoulders shook in fear.

“No! Who would have any merit from that deal!”

Even after trying to clear up the doubts, Kisa stayed dubious.

By the time they stepped off the train, they were surrounded by green, the train station clearly not the newest either. Rather, this didn’t even look like a train station building, with no ticket gate. With no selling place for tickets, no machine to buy them at, you didn’t even see any station employees. The board which announced incoming trains was about to break down as well.

After blinking a few times in surprise, Kisa dashed off into the direction the train had driven off to.

“They deceived us! I have to kill that driver!”

“Don’t kill him! We weren’t left behind, this is a normal train station!”

Mikado desperately stopped Kisa, who was about to chase the train on the rails. Not knowing if there was any trustworthy doctor around, he couldn’t risk her getting hurt.

“What kind of train station is this?! This is a shell heap no matter

how I look at it! Not like I've seen it, but this is what it feels like!"

"This isn't some place to throw trash away! This place was shown on the map, so it's a proper train station!" Mikado showed the map on his phone to Kisa.

In order to shake off any potential tailing from the Nanjou Family's private squad, he bought a new one on the way. Kisa looked around the vicinity, as wary as you could be.

"...How do you even pay here?"

"I don't think the people around here care too much even if you don't?"

"There is no way someone with such good-will exists. They must have set up surveillance cameras, shooting anybody that tries to escape!"

"What kind of public order is that?!"

Mikado was dubious if a country with such strict laws even existed on this planet. That being said, Mikado was equally worried. The two validated their tickets, and even took pictures of them as proof to not be shot by the employees, leaving the train station behind them.

After separating from the tracks, the outside scenery was unexpectedly nutritious. Apparently, this was quite the tourist spot whilst being plain, with small food stores lining up next to the main street—or rather the small street in the center. Famous chestnut steamed buns, spicy rice crackers, egg cognac, they even had honey ice cream, together with deep-fried tempura. A big billboard in front of them said 'Winter Riverside Festival', but it wasn't even winter. Taking it down and putting it up every year was probably just too much of a bother.

Walking alongside these stores, Kisa glanced everywhere. And, Mikado picked up the fact that her gaze was awfully glued to the deep-fried food stall.

"...You want to eat some?"

Kisa's face turned beet red.

"N-Not at all! I know that we don't have the time for that, and I wasn't hoping that we could walk around a bit to enjoy the place!"

"You..."

—Really are cute, Mikado swallowed his thoughts.

Thinking about it, this was the first time he went on a proper trip with Kisa, with just the two of them. Because nobody would bless this relationship.

"Guess we'll grab a bite?"

"Eh, b-but..."

"There's a lot of enemies. We have to stack up on energy as much as possible so that we don't run out in the middle. What do you want to try?"

"Then...the deep-fried ice cream."

Kisa pointed at the menu like a small child. Apparently, this was the recommended dish of this store, as they even put up pictures of it. Lining up, Mikado put in the order to the female employee.

"Two times deep-fried ice cream please."

"We have a couple-sized ice cream, how about it? Though the amount is about for three people."

Left with this unexpected choice, Mikado gazed over at Kisa.

"...What should we do?"

"E-Even if you ask me that?! W-We're not a couple yet...Ah, it's not like I hate the idea of that or anything though!" Kisa frantically waved her hands.

Even her ears were burning bright red, looking adorable. The shop employee apparently thought similar things, as she spoke to Mikado.

“What a cute girlfriend you have.”

“I’m not his girlfriend! We didn’t finish our game yet! That size is fine, so just give us two!!” Kisa slapped her hand on the counter, ordering with a commanding tone.

And then, ten minutes later. Holding a giant cup of ice cream in her hand, Kisa walked along the street.

“No matter how much I eat, it doesn’t get less...it’s too big...Why did I even order this...”

“I wonder why...”

Even though she excelled at manipulating other people into doing her bidding, she equally had these clumsy parts to her. That being said, just what you would expect, the ice cream was pretty delicious. The deep-fried portion was easy to bite, and the ice soft, decorated with nuts and flakes on top. Seeing Kisa work away at this mountain of food in front of her, Mikado felt his chest grow hot.

He always wanted to do something like this. Spending a normal day with no need to hold back, spending time with the girl he loved. Sadly, the current situation isn’t exactly a normal one. With a heavy heart, Mikado worked on his own ice cream, as he went down the path to the police station. As they made it to the lower end of the street, Kisa grabbed the hem of Mikado’s shirt.

“What’s wrong?”

“...Over there. A soldier of our private squad..”

Following the gaze of Kisa, Mikado spotted a man, wearing a suit. He carried a large suitcase, as his footsteps resounded towards them.

“I’m shocked you can tell. You know him?”

“I don’t, but that suitcase. It’s specifically made by us, an integrated machine gun inside. They mostly use this by acting as tired salarymen, sneaking inside a company, only to wreak havoc.”

“Sounds awful.”

“To think they’d even be searching for us around here...Should we run?”

The man had already spotted the two.

“No, we’ll only seem more suspicious. We’ll stay here.”

“Fueh?!”

Mikado pushed Kisa against the wall of the tunnel, embracing her.

“H-Hey...”

“Shh.”

Mikado put his hand on Kisa’s mouth, as she was about to let out a voice. They were waiting for the man to pass by their backs. Kisa’s neck turned red. Being this close, Mikado directly felt her chest moving up and down, her slender body shivering. Mikado became aware that this heart was beating faster as well. Her hair tickled his cheek, a sweet scent reaching up to his nose.

Slowly but steady, Kisa wrapped her arms around Mikado’s back. With a sensation that the two started to become one, Mikado lost to his urges, and embraced Kisa even further. The man had already passed by them, but even in this safe situation, separating felt so lonely, as Mikado couldn’t let go. He wanted to be like this with her forever.

“Mikado...can’t...breathe...” A weak sentence leaked from Kisa’s mouth, to which Mikado quickly separated from her.

“S-Sorry...”

“N-No...it’s fine...” Kisa averted her red face.

The gesture of her fixing her ruffled hair was unbearably cute. He already longed for Kisa’s sensation in his arms, but Mikado forcefully calmed down his beating heart. That was dangerous. With nobody around like that, he was close to losing himself.

“Then...should we go?”

“...Yeah.”

The two started walking again. It felt like the distance between them had shrunk just now. Was that Mikado's assumption, his wishful thinking? Or was that reality? The hands of the two were close enough to touch, yet not making it to the very end.

They headed to the police station, and after Mikado named himself at the reception, the chief came to greet him personally.

“If it isn't Kitamikado-sama! I'm ashamed to greet you here without having anything to offer!”

Small pearls of sweat dripped down his cheek, as he panicky fixed the button of his shirt.

“No, I'm the one at fault for coming here unannounced. I actually have a request for you.”

“Do not hold back! If it's for Kitamikado-sama, I will do my utmost to fulfill it—Ugh?!”

The chief slammed his fist on his own chest, almost coughing up blood in the process. Waiting for him to recover, Mikado stated his business in a face quiet enough that nobody could hear him.

“I need any sort of weapon you can offer me.”

“A weapon?” The chief's eyes opened wide.

Though he would often be asked for work by the Kitamikado Family, a request like this was unprecedented. He asked the other officers to leave, lowering his voice as he spoke to Mikado.

“...An emergency situation?”

“...Yeah.”

In other words, a problem between the Kitamikado and Nanjou Family. If a war broke out between the two, the country would go up in flames. Even if this war resulted from a forbidden love like this.

“An alien attack...”

“Not aliens.”

“Kitamikado-sama will have to infiltrate the alien spaceship to bring it down...”

“This isn’t Independence Day. We’re dealing with normal humans here.”

Mikado grew worried relying on the person who immediately connected an ‘emergency situation’ to ‘alien attack’.

“Then...over here.” The chief guided Mikado and Kisa.

He must have gotten excited, after nothing happened in this countryside town for so long. Walking past the other officers on his way with a grin, he took out a small key from his chest pocket, opening the door to the weapon storage. Inviting the two inside, he immediately locked the door.

The room was filled with a scent of metal, gunpowder, and grease. On the display stand hung countless guns, with plenty of firepower, however...

“...You only have guns?”

Kisa looked around, slightly disappointed.

“Using handguns or revolvers doesn’t exactly work against armed helicopters after all.” Mikado narrowed his eyebrows to that.

At a previous police station, Mikado was allowed to inspect a submachine gun, or the bullet-proof shield, but it couldn’t be helped that this location was so far in the countryside. Seeing the two dejected, the police chief approached Mikado.

“Just between the two of us...I’m actually gathering a thing or two as a personal hobby of sorts.” His expression showed that he was having trouble speaking of it.

“Weapons, huh.”

As Mikado guessed, he nodded along. Seeing how he reacted, it must have been something off limits, and if this was any normal situation, Mikado would have to give him a harsh punishment, the situation wouldn't allow that.

"I will overlook this once. Show it to me."

"So basically, I will not be given any punishment, nor forced to step down from my position, right?" The chief asked just to make sure.

"Yeah."

"Nobody will come hunting me or my position, right?"

"As long as you don't pose any problems with it."

The chief jumped up.

"Heck yeaaaaaaaah! Kitamikado-sama allowed me my personal collection!!"

"Chief?!" Mikado jolted up.

Then again, everybody would be taken by surprise after seeing a man dance like a rainforest inhabitant, pulling off a rain dance. The chief cleared his throat, and continued.

"...Excuse me. I lost myself there. To me, weapons, ammunition, and agonizing screams are more important to me than three meals a day."

"I know it might be weird coming from me, but is it fine leaving this guy as a police chief?" Kisa gave a wry smile.

"I'm not sure myself anymore."

Mikado met Kisa's gaze. Not minding their reactions, the chief operated the panel at the wall. Pressing the button that appeared, he turned around to the two.

"Feast your eyes upon this! This is my precious small collection!"

The display with the guns split in two, revealing the wall behind

them. The wall slid to the side, showing a hidden room. Guns everywhere. This wasn't just a small collection anymore. The police chief rested his shoulders against the heavy weapons, pointing at one.

"How about this, Kitamikado-sama? A 0.20 calibre anti-tank rifle."

"What are you even planning on fighting?"

"Tanks."

"I get that! I'm asking for the exact situation!"

"Once the police and the defence force end up going to a full-blown war."

"How would that even happen?!"

That felt like a post-apocalypse battle. Mikado realized that the world would be a better place if the chief's private selection of weapons would never find its use.

"Look, Mikado! It's C4! He even has C4! With this, we can send the Tokyo Tower into the stratosphere!" Kisa jumped at Mikado, holding a plastic case.

The chief nodded along in satisfaction.

"Indeed. With this, you could blow up Tokyo Tower or Mount Fuji."

"With this, we can blow up a certain police station, inhabited by an old man with a weapon gathering fetish!"

"Hold on, are you talking about this station by any chance?" The chief started sweating profusely.

"What else? What weapon do you recommend, Chief?" Kisa asked like she was asking for the recommended dish in a restaurant.

"Let's see...What about this? A recoilless rifle, extremely useless in fast-paced combat." The chief put down a weapon at Mikado's feet.

"This is also part of your hobby?"

“It is. I happened to see it during a 30% sale, and bought it.”

“Where did such a sale even happen...”

“I’m worried about the quality. It might explode right in front of you if you fire it.” Kisa warned in a serious tone.

“Hehehe, I have much more still. This here is a non-lethal poison gas grenade, this a laser weapon able to steal your sight in one second, and this gear that can generate an ultrasound that can render all people in the vicinity unconscious.”

“Are you planning to committerrorism?!”

“As a hobby, yes.”

“Don’t do that even as a hobby.” Mikado sighed, picking out only a handful of useful gear and weapons.

From the looks of it, the Nanjou Family weren’t the only ones working in the shadows of this world.

Having amassed a safe amount of weaponry, they headed towards the residence of the numerical five, and decided to stay over a night at the foot of the mountain. It was an old hot-spring lodging, taken care of by a family for generations. Apparently, with the great location and view it had, it was loved by many, and even used as the stage in famous movies.

Since they ran the risk of endangering the other guests if they took a bath or met with them, Mikado and Kisa rented a room with their own open-air bath. Finishing the payment, Mikado went to take a bath first, with Kisa following after. As Mikado was cooling in his room, Kisa arrived fresh from her bath.

Her cheeks were still red from the heat. Small droplets of water ran down from the tips of her water. Seeing Kisa dressed in the yukata of the inn was refreshing, as her white neck shone out from the top, her bare legs from the bottom.

Kisa gazed over at the bedding, which had been provided previously by the landlord.

“She put the futons together, huh.”

“Well...I guess that would happen if a boy and girl stayed over together.” Mikado scratched his cheek in awkwardness.

The owner of the inn probably judged Mikado and Kisa to be a couple, and clearing up the misunderstanding would prove difficult anyway.

“Was this the same when you stayed over with Shizukawa-san?”

“W-Why are you asking that?”

“Tell me. Did they put the futons together when you stayed at an inn with Shizukawa-san?” Kisa stared right into Mikado’s eyes.

It was almost like she felt a bit angry. This expression had been turned to him many times thus far, especially when the love game was involved, but this time it felt like jealousy was involved as well.

“We didn’t sleep over inside Japan...so we weren’t sleeping in futons like these.”

“Really? What about being called over to the Shizukawa residence to sleep there?”

“...N-Not since we started being high school students...”

“Hmmm?” Kisa brought her face closer, glaring at Mikado from close range.

Putting her hand on the tatami mat as she pulled her body forward, her yukata was pulled up, revealing her thighs.

“When we were younger, I stayed over many times...And for some reason, the futons were put next to each other...”

“Idiot!”

“Ouch?!”

Kisa rammed her forehead against his.

“That’s to get two people together! The Shizukawa Family...Rinkasan was aiming for you ever since then.” Kisa puffed out her cheek, wrapping her body inside the futon with a spoilt mood.

Having hoped they could enjoy a bit of a drink and talk after their respective baths, Mikado was disappointed. That being said, they had to get out early the next day, so resting up more didn’t hurt.

Mikado turned off the lights in the ceiling, laid down on the futon next to Kisa’s. Thanks to the moonlight shining inside the room, he could see the interior of the room. The tea cups on the table near them, and a set-up trap at the entrance. The chirping of the insects was heard from the nearby river. Naturally, the reason Mikado couldn’t sleep properly was not because of that. Before, he had been locked up inside the queen’s room in the foreign country, and just after he remembered that the love game was still on-going, so he had to be wary. Yet, the biggest reason was the fact that she had feelings for him, and this fact was enough to get him wide awake.

“Hey...Mikado.”

That’s why, as he suddenly heard Kisa’s voice calling out to him, he felt his heart almost leap out of his chest.

“...What?”

“Won’t you...come over here...?” Kisa lifted up her futon, inviting him.

She had an almost saddened expression to her, her eyes radiating with charm. Even though he knew this was going to end badly, Mikado was unable to resist at this sight, entering her futon. Right that second, the entirety of Kisa’s scent filled his nose, making his body burn up, as he felt like his entire body was embraced by Kisa.

“This almost feels like we’re running away.”

“Yeah.”

Moving to a place where their parents couldn’t reach them, they stayed over at a distant inn. Though the reasons were a bit more complicated than a quarrel with their parents, in the end it was the

same as running away.

“Maybe doing this from the start would have been faster.”

“Crushing the Nanjou Family as a whole?”

“No! Just the two of us, running away.”

“...Now that you say it.”

There were indeed things more important than family. If they had thrown away the shackles restraining them from the start, the situation wouldn't have escalated as it did now.

“What if...we made a baby and went home, would they get angry at us?”

“P-Probably yeah.”

Met with this bold question, Mikado was flustered.

“But, if we do that, they will have to give up, right? So it is...an option.” Kisa spoke, as she brought her body closer to Mikado.

Her bare legs entangled with Mikado's, her slender fingers holding on to his yukata. Her radiating eyes, filled with love and desire, only looked at Mikado. The breathing of the two became rough, the breaks shorter. As he brought his cheek close enough at a distance they were touching, Mikado realized that she would be willing to accept him right now. That whatever he would be doing in this room, she would be happy about it. That being said—

“Better not...for now.”

“For now? What kind meaning does that have? That you would do it under different circumstances?”

Putting the words ‘Of course’ into his actions, Mikado embraced Kisa, who buried her face into his chest. Inside this dark room, they felt each other's warmth, embraced in each other's scent, as they covered each other's with their own, to make sure they wouldn't be stolen.

“I wanted to ask this before...But why did you even come up with the love game?”

“A long time ago...you told me something.”

“What did I say?”

“If only we hadn’t been enemies. Hearing these words, I couldn’t help but imagine that, dream about it.” Kisa muttered, frustrated.

Mikado was the same in that regard. That being said, unlike Kisa, he had given up on this future all together.

“What would you have done if we weren’t enemies?”

“Met you all the time, and stayed over at your house.”

“I would have attended the same school as you, starting from grade school.”

“We’d be eating lunch together, just the two of us, always.”

“Sneaking away during school trips to check out the location ourselves.”

“Making delicious chocolate for you on Valentine’s day.”

“Going on the first shrine visit with you, praying that we stay together forever.”

“Watching you as you grew right in front of me.”

“Being entranced you grow more and more beautiful.”

A past that could have happened. Yet, a life that had not been allowed. Reminiscing about this non-existent past, the two brought their faces closer. Kisa’s half-opened mouth was right in front of Mikado’s eyes. Mikado brought his lips onto Kisa’s, just as she brought her lips onto his.

—Soft.

Mikado’s head turned numb. Nobody knew what would happen

tomorrow. They were both rushed with the feeling of they might not ever be able to speak of their feelings.

“...I love you.”

Both of them muttered at the same time. Their lips overlapped again, as they longed for the other. Just how long have they wanted to do this. Before they realized it, their yukata had been disarrayed, their breathing getting more and more stimulated. From Kisa's eyes, tears as beautiful as diamonds fell down.

“...Guess I lost the love game.”

“...Same here.”

“That means it's a draw then.”

Their hands intertwined, their cheeks rubbing against the other.

“Don't die. There's still many more things I want to do with you.”

“Of course. I won't be beat by anybody else but you.”

In order to protect each other from the cold at night, they tightly embraced each other, falling asleep in the other's arms.

The residence of the numerical five was located at the summit of the mountain, at the shore of a beautiful lake. Being used as a meeting space often, it was far away from any other civilization. This allowed them to be safe from any attacks, the surroundings decorated with countless traps.

Inside the surveillance room of this hut, a big cake stood on the table in the dead center. Together with all the monitors and terminals, it didn't fit into this atmosphere at all, as it looked like some decorative cake, often seen at luxurious parties. Though the soldier that had it in front of him had taken a few bites, he never craved for it. A comrade of his caught on to that, asking him.

“What's wrong with that cake?”

“Apparently, it's from the kitchen. Though nobody can really attack

this monstrosity, looking at it...”

“Wait, isn’t there some sound going on?”

“A sound...?”

“A clock ticking maybe...?”

“No, isn’t this...a fuse?”

The soldiers grew pale, as they wanted to jump out of the room, but it was too late. The decorative cake exploded, as the shockwave blasted strawberries everywhere. The guards were blown away, as the screens were covered with cream. Hidden inside the cake was a small bottle, that started leaking sleeping gas, leaving the soldiers unable to even warn their allies.

“The cake was a lie! I repeat, the cake was a lie! With this, the chain of command has been rendered useless!” Mikado ran along the wide open mountain path, as he confirmed the situation.

He remembered the prank Kisa played at the party when they were younger. The exploding cake turned the party of the political world into a white wonderland. Back then, Mikado and Kisa ran away at full speed, but now they were seeking out the disaster.

“From what I can see, the interval of incoming communication for the soldiers in the outer yard is around ten minutes. If we don’t secure the numerical five until then, they will pick up on the situation going on in the surveillance room!”

“What will happen then?!”

“The entire residence will be closed off after one minute. After five minutes, the support squad will come in. It’ll be game over!” Kisa aimed for the cafeteria of the residence.

At this time, the numerical five would often be gathered to eat lunch together. If they don’t strike them all down at once, the chances of being overwhelmed are too great. An armed man appeared from a room on the way, spotting Mikado and Kisa.

“Wha?! Kisa-sama?! Why are you here?!” The soldier was baffled.

He tried reaching for the communication device at his waist, but Kisa didn’t allow that.

“I wonder why!” A sharp needle came flying from her hand, hitting the soldier right in the brow.

The soldier froze up, and collapsed backwards, freezing up.

“Hey! He’s not dead with that, is he?! He’s coughing up blood!”

“It’s poison that will wear off in a month! If he’s lucky.”

“What if he’s not...”

Mikado and Kisa hurried along. They had to gain total control of the numerical five, but they couldn’t ruin too much to achieve that. If they created any victims, they wouldn’t be able to talk their way out of it.

Running up the stairs, a small group of soldiers approached them, all of them carrying submachine guns. Before they could pull the trigger, the two immediately closed in on the enemy. The shoe of Mikado hit one soldier’s spine, whereas Kisa’s stun gun ran right into the other’s neck. Letting out screams of agony, they collapsed. The guns falling to the ground let out a wildfire, scattering the window glass.

“We’re the strongest team! Join the Nanjou Family, and become my partner already!”

“No, you’ll join my family, and help bring justice to this world.”

Mikado and Kisa shared a high five, running along the passage. Even inside the enemy’s dent, Mikado felt no worry whatsoever. Rather, the joy of running rampant with Kisa was far greater. On top of that, having shared their first kiss, and affirmed their love for each other, Mikado felt limitless strength and energy resting inside of him.

Mowing down the soldiers of the squad, they moved into the deeper parts of the residence, eventually hitting a thick wall. Unlike the other ones before, it was a metal wall, as if to isolate what laid

beyond.

“A barrier wall?! Did the defense system already activate?!”

“They must have caught on to the ruckus going on inside.”

“Basically...the numerical five are locked away in this room?”

“The chances are high!”

Kisa put a plastic explosive onto the wall, pulling the fuse. Watching this movement smooth enough you didn't think she was still in high school, the fuse lit up, and Kisa jumped into Mikado's chest so that he could protect her from the shockwave. The explosive blew up, creating a giant hole in the wall, only for a disturbing sound to fill their ears.

“...!”

Mikado carried Kisa, and jumped aside. Cutting through the white smoke, a storm of bullets came flying towards them, full-throttle machine-gun fire. The carpet and such were riddled with bullet holes, making a mess out of the entire floor behind them.

Mikado still held onto Kisa, as he ran up the wall, grabbing the ceiling.

“Kisa!”

“Yes!”

Kisa took out a flashbang from the belt on her thighs, throwing it inside the cafeteria. The both of them closed their eyes, waiting for the screams of agony to rush inside the cafeteria. Having been hit by the bright flash, the soldiers held their eyes as they fell to the ground. Mikado quickly rendered all the soldiers with guns unconscious, as Kisa did it with the rest.

Even in such a ruckus, the numerical five all sat around a luxurious table. Must have been the rotten pride of the Nanjou Family. That being said, they had anticipated the flashbang, as they had their eyes closed, burying their faces into their arms.

“Now, your party is over! You will regret making the Queen of Darkness your enemy!” Kisa declared, a gun pointing at them in hand.

“Kisa-sama?!”

“Just when I was wondering who would attack us!”

“Why are you here?!”

“Isn’t that obvious?! It’s to obtain my love with Mikado!!”

Realizing what she just said, Kisa blushed profusely.

“Love...?”

“What kind of love...?”

“The successor of the Nanjou Family is talking about love...?”

Met with doubtful eyes, Kisa shook in embarrassment. Unable to watch this scene any further, Mikado scratched his head as he provided a follow-up.

“Y-Yeah...Kisa and I...love each other. Even yesterday, we shared passionate moments together...”

“S-S-S-Shut up! Every one of you! Line up at the window, arms behind your heads!” Kisa demanded, as she shot the gun, wildly.

The food on the table was blown away, holes appearing in nearby monitors. The numerical five did just as they were told, sitting on the floor, gritting their teeth.

“Shit...damn you, Sai...”

“I didn’t hear about any of this...”

“We weren’t planning on hurting Kisa-sama or the boy...”

“Not planning on hurting her? What do you mean?” Mikado narrowed his eyes.

He felt like something was off. Naturally, it made sense that they would try to leave Kisa out of any harm, but why would they do so for Mikado?

“If you want us to tell you, you have to show the correct attitude!”

“Invading our dinner, and pointing a gun at us, learn your place!”

“Right right, you Kitamikado brat!”

Kisa just calmly smiled.

“Alright. If you don’t answer me within ten seconds, I’ll be erasing you one by one. In 50 seconds, you’ll end up as shark bait.”

Having the gun pointed at them, the numerical five gave up.

Mikado and Kisa kicked open the front door of the Nanjou Family’s main residence, storming inside. Behind them were all the unconscious soldiers they had taken care of on the way. Mikado formed a fist with such strength that blood came out, whereas Kisa rattled her giant chainsaw, driven by anger.

“Welcome back, Onee-chan! You sure were fast!”

Mizuki came running down to the entrance hall. She completely ignored the hellish scenery, just greeting her older sister as energetic as always.

“Wait, Mikado-kun came with you?! It’s the first time you came here! Let’s play!” Mizuki jumped at Mikado’s waist.

“We don’t have time for that. You get it?!”

“I don’t!”

“At least try to!”

Pulling away Mizuki from Mikado, Kisa walked deeper into the residence. Seeing the chainsaw painted with blood, as well as her expression distorted in rage, the people present ran away in fear, letting them pass with no resistance.

Arriving at the private office of the current family's head, Kisa used the chainsaw to cut the door in half. They were greeted by the head of the family, Sai, who sighed.

"I was wondering when you'd come. I knew you were an unmanageable person, but you could have not caused a ruckus like this."

"Grandmother...? Do you have any final words...?" Kisa pointed the still roaring blade of the chainsaw at Sai.

Clear killing intent was leaking from her eyes. She was ready to cut down her family without any hesitation.

"What might you be referring to?" Sai just snorted with a laugh, not panicking in the slightest.

"Everything! Just how much are you going to look down on us?! This incident was all your plan, wasn't it!" Kisa took out a certain picture, slamming it on the desk.

It was the picture she had found in this very office before. A boy and girl looking exactly like Mikado and Kisa were cuddling with each other.

"My, where did you get that picture?" Sai raised one eyebrow.

"Though there was no data left, we looked through the various newspapers at the time. Carefully, so that no problems would arise. And as it turns out, the people in this picture..."

"The woman is the young Nanjou Sai...You, Grandmother."

"The man is Kitamikado Raidou...My grandfather."

A direct connection between Nanjou and Kitamikado family, a coupling that shouldn't have been in existence, let alone a picture like this resulting from it.

"The numerical five spit it out. When you were younger, you had a mutual love with Mikado's grandfather. But, the numerical five back then wouldn't allow that, standing in opposition."

“This having happened to you, no way could you stand in the way of your grandchild. Rather, it’s the opposite. You sent the evidence to both our phones, as well as to the numerical five, all in order to speed up our love game, right?”

Kisa and Mikado pressed on Sai, who watched the two in silence until...

“...And? Did you at least kiss?”

“Huh?! W-W-Why would you suddenly ask that?!” Kisa grew beet red.

“I’m asking if you’ve kissed. Answer me.”

“Ugh...We did...”

“Who initiated it?”

“B-Both at the same time...” Kisa felt like digging a hole, being forced to tell a member of her family about her sex life.

Kisa sighed.

“Draw due to injury, huh. Well, knowing how much of an embarrassed fellow you are, Kisa, I think you worked hard.”

“D-Don’t make fun of me!”

Naturally, the fact that her face was burning red didn’t exactly help her point. Sai saw this, and shrugged.

“Love is something scary after all. I didn’t expect you to cause such a ruckus...Then again, I’m the same.”

“Just answer my question already! You were the mastermind behind everything, right?!” Kisa once again slammed her hand on the desk in rage.

“It’s just as you said, Kitamikado Raidou and I loved each other. We were much more lovey-dovey than you. Every time we met, he would spoil me in bed.”

“S-Spoil you in bed...?”

“We had sex, of course.”

“Hyau...”

Her energy had vanished elsewhere, as Kisa just let out a flustered voice. She grabbed Mikado’s shirt, looking up at him to plead for help. Yet, he felt the same way. At the same time, he wished she would take away the chainsaw in her other hand, as this contradicted her image of a young maiden immensely.

“...In the end, I’m jealous of you two.” Sai muttered in a saddened tone.

“Eh?” Kisa’s eyes opened wide.

“I was unable to truly follow my emotions. No matter how much we longed for the other, we couldn’t be together. I was unable to stay with him, and eventually lost to his fiancée.”

“Grandmother...”

“Frustrated, disheartened, I wished for the annexation of the two families. Gathering strength in the main family, I managed to never allow the numerical five any sort of rebellion anymore.”

“Annexation...? Not absorption?” Mikado doubted his ears.

Mikado only assumed that he would be able to get Kisa to his own family, but he never thought of connecting the two families. Because the light and dark they emitted were too far away.

“It’s not a weird talk at all. Back when the Nanjou Family and Kitamikado Family were first founded, they were allies. They held the ideal of protecting Japan, allies that chose to split it in light and dark.”

“Just like...Mikado and I.” Kisa muttered.

“Exactly. Though this fake stance escalated, until the two families truly started hating each other, if it’s with the two of you, who share

the same vision as the founders, you might be able to bring the two families together. That's what I thought. Because your parents didn't have any interest in the Kitamikado family, I chased them out of the house."

"Is that why they were sent away to a rural area?! Not because they were useless?!"

"They wouldn't help in bringing the two families together, so of course. Either way, there doesn't exist anybody more proficient for this matter, so good riddance."

"You sure resemble Kisa a lot..."

"Where?! How?! I'm not that wrinkled!"

"Kisa? How about we continue that part in a later conversation?" Sai's faze froze up.

Even being the strong 99 she was, a maiden would never change.

"So that's why you brought up the idea of the love game." Mikado asked.

Sai nodded.

"If the game continued for much longer, the chances of other people catching on would have grown, so I gave you a little push...But this is as much as I can do."

"So the second you pass away, the dissatisfied members will come hunting us."

"If we don't satisfy everybody, there won't be anything we can do, huh..."

They needed a force stronger than the leaders of the both families.

"The path awaiting the both of you is a battlefield. You will become enemies to countless inhabitants of this country. Do you still...want to be together?" Sai gazed at both Mikado and Kisa.

If they gave any half-hearted answer, they would most likely be killed. That being said, ever since they were born, the entire world was their enemy, so pondering about it now was a waste of time.

“Of course. I am the Empress of Darkness. No matter what anybody says, I will take everything I want.”

“I am a Kitamikado, blessed with the light of Japan. With my greatest justice, I will make Kisa my own.”

Mikado and Kisa connected their hands, and glared destiny right in the face.

Epilogue

The big water fountain reflected the light shining down from the cloudless sky. A soft breeze, filled with the scent from the nearby flowers, tickled Mikado's skin. On the nearby benches were lovers confessing their feelings to each other, as he watched the nearby pigeons eat some popcorn that had fallen to the ground.

Barely last week, he had gone through a shoot-out at a distant mountain residence, so being able to sit here in peace felt like a lie to him. That being said, his heart was not peaceful in the slightest. Unable to calm down, he nervously checked if his hair was looking fine, as he cleaned his shoes one last time.

There, a scent sweeter than any honey came drifting towards him, as Kisa walked up to where he stood.

"My, Mikado, you were already here? I forgot that today was supposed to be our date, so I came late. I see you were looking forward to this date that much." Kisa tried sounding indifferent, but Mikado had already seen through her.

"...Weren't you here pretty early yourself? You've been watching me from that cafe over there the entire time, right?"

"Wha...?!" Kisa blushed furiously.

"Considering the fact that you've been sitting in there, goggles in hand, before I even came here, you must have arrived much earlier than me. Were you looking forward to the date with me that much?" Mikado approached Kisa's face, grinning in arrogance.

Kisa tightly grasped her handbag, taking half a step back.

"...I-I couldn't help it, okay. This is the first time we went on a proper date...I was really worried in case I got the wrong place, or if you didn't come." Kisa muttered, tearing up.

"Ugh...!"

Even though he was the one to attack, Mikado felt his heart break into pieces at Kisa's destructive reaction. Will he be able to survive until the end of the day?

"Um...is there some place you want to visit first?"

"The cat cafe of course!"

"Seems like you really took a liking to that."

"We didn't have time a while ago, so this is revenge!"

Kisa headed to the cat cafe on fast feet, but. Right as they arrived, they were greeted by a paper hung on the door that read 'Closed for convenience'. Kisa kicked the door, brimming with rage.

"Convenience?!! What do they mean?! There is only one convenience you have to care about, and that is about me! Open up! If not, I'll blow up this entire building!"

"Don't blow it up!"

Kisa was about to take out an explosive like she would take out a handkerchief, only to be stopped by Mikado.

"Then let me waterboard them! They can taste the waves of dirty water down at the sewers!"

"So you were the one who did that?! If you really like me, then hold back a bit, will you!"

"I knew you wouldn't die from something like that! That's why I can do whatever I want!"

"You can't! Throw away this level of trust right away!" Mikado pulled away Kisa from the door.

"Shaaaaaaaaa!!!"

Kisa used her long nails to scratch at the door like a real cat. And what a bad cat to deal with. As Mikado took responsibility to take Kisa away from the cafe, the girl sighed in disbelief.

“...Phew, seems like I got lost a bit there.”

“A bit...?”

“But, what should we do now? I was planning on sitting in the cat cafe for at least ten hours, so I don’t have any other plans...”

“Just how much do you like cat cafes now?”

Although it was the first spot Mikado had introduced her to, she sure had taken a liking to it. He was going to recommend adopting a cat, but he feared she might get buried under concrete depending on Kisa’s mood.

“What about the shrine then?”

“Shrine...? What meaning is there for a god to visit another god’s shrine?”

“You’re not a god, pull yourself together.”

“I am! I have judged myself to be a proper god!”

“You being serious scares me even more!”

Even if she was a god, she probably resembled more of a demon god.

“Also, what are we going to do at a shrine? Don’t you go there around New Year’s?”

“That’s...There’s a shrine around that gives blessings for a future together, so I thought of praying for the two of us.”

“Fuah...?! Prayers for easy childbirth?!”

“Too fast! It’s just for being normal lovers!” Mikado blushed as he corrected Kisa.

“W-Well, I’m happy about that, but...I think that the two of us have to take our future in our own two hands.”

“...You’re right about that.”

Being reasoned with flawless logic such as this, Mikado couldn't say anything. Although she still kept her hostile attitude towards the rest of the world, she showed her affection to him in proper fashion. Even more than Mikado was, which was probably related to Kisa being a rather emotional person, whether it was in anger, sadness, or love.

"Then...what else do you want to do?"

"What about...taking a walk? Just talking with you, as we laugh and admire the scenery, is more enough for me."

"U-Understood..."

This open affection of hers was almost too much for Mikado. The two walked down a shopping street, filled with couples. There were still countless problems waiting to be cleared up for the two, but just spending time like other couples would, Mikado felt satisfied.

Kisa's fingers touched the back of Mikado's hand. Waiting for a bit, she intertwined them with Mikado's fingers, looking up at him, part worried, part demanding. Gulping audibly, Mikado took Kisa's hand, who returned the grip. Just by holding hands with her, a sense of happiness ran up Mikado's back, filling his heart with warmth.

As the two progressed through the shopping street, Kisa came to a halt in front of a variety store.

"That...let's buy it."

Being able to buy anything in the world she wanted, this was the first time Kisa voiced a request like that.

"What?"

"Rings. I want us to have paired rings."

Kisa pointed at countless rings shown at the counter. Naturally, Mikado wasn't as dense to not grasp her intentions with a present like this.

"Rings, huh...I could make better ones if you give me a bit more time."

The rings directed at the general populace costed barely a thousand yen¹. Way too cheap for a Kitamikado man to present the girl of his dreams.

“The price doesn’t matter. On our first date, I want to receive my first present, and treasure it forever. I want you to prove to me that you will keep your promise of always fighting destiny with me.”

“...Understood. Which do you want?”

“Whichever you want, I’m fine.”

Putting definite proof into her words, Kisa gazed at Mikado. It was a heavy duty bestowed upon him. He had to pick the perfect pair of rings, so that the promise would never break.

Mikado looked around the wide arrangement of rings, troubled with a choice. Kisa didn’t rush him, and instead calmly watched over him, seeing how serious he was. After thinking and thinking and more thinking, Mikado eventually bought a pair. They separated from the shopping street, walked down an alley filled with trees, and took the rings out of the plastic bag.

Brimming with ocean-blue color, they had the form of a sun and moon engraved in them, symbolizing light and darkness of their two families who would now stay together forever. Kisa lifted her hand towards Mikado, who took it, and put the ring on her finger. Kisa did the same, and they both gazed into each other’s eyes.

“...I’ll definitely stay with you forever.”

“...Yeah, we’ll bring together both of our families.”

They exchanged a promise, not heard by anybody. The price of the love game was a cheap plastic ring. Yet, for the two, it was more valuable than anything else.



Kisa pointed the finger with the ring on it towards the sky.

“Hey...Am I cute?”

“Yes. Yes you are.”

“Ehehe...” Kisa smiled as her cheeks turned red.

Unable to hold himself back at this sight, Mikado gently embraced Kisa's body.

"Can I ask for one more thing?"

"What is it?"

"As proof of your promise, can you kiss me?"

"Right here...?"

"You can't...?"

Seeing Kisa's pleading gaze like a puppy, Mikado couldn't go against her. Even after the end of the love game, Mikado never saw himself winning against Kisa. Hence, he softly took both her cheeks into his hands, he put his lips on hers.

"Mm....." Kisa's shoulders slightly shook.

Her tongue came dancing into Mikado's mouth, entangling with his. After exchanging a long kiss, giving each other proof of their promise, they separated, gazing at each other with pure desire and lust.

"Mikado..."

"Kisa..."

They muttered both their names in a daze, when—

"Mikado-kuuuuun! Kiss me next!"

"Guha?!"

Hit by an impressive impact to his stomach, Mikado was sent flying. No, he wasn't sent flying by an impact, he was thrown onto the ground as Mizuki jumped at him. Although she was just a middle school girl, Mikado had been careless, hit with the full force of her attack. After eventually landing on his back, Mizuki was riding on top of him, Mikado barely avoiding her approaching lips.

“Mizuki?! Since when were you here?!”

“From the very beginning! Since you worked so hard, I didn’t want to bother you during your date, so I just secretly followed you!”

“Then don’t bother us to the very end! And stop trying to rape Mikado!” Kisa grabbed her little sister by the neck, pulling her off Mikado.

Rinka came rushing towards them as well, fully out of breath, jumping at Kisa instead.

“If I kiss Kisa-san now, it means that I’ve kissed Mikado-sama...! So basically...!”

“What do you mean ‘basically’! It’s not the same! You won’t steal my lips!” Kisa dodged Rinka, and covered her mouth with her hands.

Kokage helped Mikado up from the ground...tightly grasping his hand.

“U-Um, Mikado-kun! Would you maybe come with me to visit planet Procyon?! We can save 80% right now! If we pay a bit more, we can make it our permanent residence!”

“Kawaraya-san?! I didn’t expect you to be an enemy!”

The romantic atmosphere had vanished elsewhere, as the usual chaos ensued. On top of that, it felt like the girls had fully stopped holding back.

“Mikado and I have achieved mutual love! We’re going out! So stop trying to take Mikado from me!”

“We’re going out?!” Mikado’s eyes opened wide.

“We’re not or something?! Wouldn’t you go out if you confess your love to each other?!”

“I mean, we never strictly said we were going out, and I thought we’d be waiting until we united both of our families...”

“I can’t wait until then! There’s lots of things I want to do!”

“Lots of things?!”

Having fully lost herself, the Kisa train didn’t stop.

“I mean, if you’re not going out, then it should be fine if I went on a date with Mikado-kun, right? Mikado-kun, let’s go to a hotel, I found something amazing online!”

“I will not allow you to take Mikado-sama all for yourself. Even if the two of you are going out...No, even if you are married, I can still be his mistress!” Rinka looked more convinced than ever.

“Ugh...” Met with this relentless attack of her rivals, Kisa was backed in a corner.

Maybe...rather than assimilating the two families, her rivals would pose a bigger problem?

“I definitely won’t hand over Mikado! He belongs to me and me alone!”

Kisa clung to Mikado’s arm, and started running.



1 ~\$10

Afterword

Thank you very much for watching over the ending of Mikado and the others' love game. As an author, having been allowed to finish this series until the very end, a satisfying one I hope, I couldn't be happier. I'm sure that a lot of trouble and hurdles await Mikado and Kisa, but knowing these two, they won't give up until they obtain the future they want.

Concerning the failed love between the two families in the past, that had been in my thoughts from the very beginning. Though I did not expect Mizuki to end up the one as the mother character in this volume. I had planned her to stay as a mob character so to speak, and yet she even turned into a main character, a proper heroine fighting for Mikado.

What I felt after finishing this series was 'I want a route with another heroine!'. Mizuki, Rinka, and even Kokage are all cute, making me want to have them end up with Mikado as well. Naturally, I'm a big fan of harem ends, but with the whole love game in the background, it would have felt wrong here. I guess I just liked the characters that much, that I wouldn't have minded making specific heroine routes.

Usami-sama, my representative editor, who has helped me work on this book from start to finish, thank you very much. The same thanks goes out to everyone from GA Publishing, as well as everybody who helped bring out these books, and the stores that put them on their shelves. A special thanks to kakao-sama, who has provided me with such cutely erotical comical illustrations throughout the entire series. If not for Sensei, this series wouldn't have been the same. Thank you very much.

This brings an end to the series 'Kawaii Onnanoko ni Kouryaku Sareru no Wa Suki desu ka?', but believe it or not, I already have another series in the making, which will also be illustrated by kakao-sensei.

The title is 'Noraneko Kanojo wo Edzuke Shitai'¹. It is about a shared-

apartment with all sorts of different girls, the protagonist acting as the caretaker of this place. From my plans, it would be a cute romcom. I can barely wait to see the illustrations for it in action.

Please support the kakao-sensei x Amano tag team in the future as well!

From the end of the rainy season to the late mid-summer—

The 4th of August, 2019. Amano Seiju.

¹ Roughly translated as: Wanting to feed the stray cat girl (or girlfriend)

Credits

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